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PRACTICAL ESSAYS

AND

REMARKS

ON THAT SPECIES OF CONSUMPTION

INCIDENT TO YOUTH,

AND THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF LIFE,

COMMONLY CALLED

TABES DORSALIS;

WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF THE NATURE, CAUSES, AND CURE OF THAT DISTEMPER, AND THE DISEASES ARISING THEREFROM, ESPECIALLY THE NERVOUS ATROPHIA,

AND

THE PHTHISIS, OR CONSUMPTION IN GENERAL.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

Extracts from the Works of the moſt diſtinguiſhed Practitioners of the preſent and former Ages, coinciding with the Author's own Practice and Experience, demonſtrating the baneful Effects of unnatural Venery on the fineſt Functions in the

ANIMAL ŒCONOMY.

By HENRY ST. JOHN NEALE, &c.

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——— etiam Parnaſſia laurus
Parva, ſubingenti matris ſe ſubjicit umbra, Virg.

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1800.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE PUBLIC.

SOME writers dedicate their productions to particular great men; the Author of these inquiries presumes to publish them under your auspices. The favourable reception the first Edition of this work has met with, has induced him to present you with a Second, considerably enlarged, and containing a great deal more new matter. On this account, and the advance upon paper, he has been obliged to raise its price. The Author has, with no small labour and assiduity, in the midst of hurrying and extensive practice, pored over the works of the most distinguished practitioners of the present and former ages, with a view to get every information, and he is proud to find such illustrious characters coinciding with his own practice and experience, on the following subjects. As health is the object of these thoughts, an object certainly well worthy attention; may the perusal of them have the salutary effect wished for and intended by

Your devoted humble Servant,

HENRY ST. JOHN NEALE.

Corner of Greek-street and Soho-square,
April 27, 1800.

INTRODUCTION

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

MANKIND are much intereſted in the importance of the Remarks and Obſervations which make the ſubject of the following pages, for it may be ſaid that much of their happineſs in life, and even the continuation of the human ſpecies in a great meaſure depend. Beſides, it takes in a large part of other diſeaſes to which the human body is ſubject, and but too often prove fatal, from a wrong management.

No other motive than that powerful one, the utility which ſuch a work, founded upon long practice and experience, might be to mankind, (on ac-

count of its delicacy,) could have prevailed upon the Author to undertake it; and this, in fact, is the only one that has determined him to attempt it. Beſides, he has met with ſo many opportunities of treating thoſe complaints ſucceſsfully, that all that he advances in the caſes here recorded is founded upon his own knowledge; whereon his readers may rely. Hypothetical principles have done an infinite deal of miſchief in this reſpect, and it requires a more than ordinary degree of ſagacity and medical knowledge, rightly to diſtinguiſh the various kinds of diſeaſes incident to the animal œconomy. To write well on diſeaſes, it is abſolutely neceſſary, among other qualifications, to be well acquainted with, and to have had a large ſhare of practice. No ſenſible Phyſician can ever ſuppoſe, that his knowledge or dignity conſiſts in being educated at any particular College, or in any particular Country, nor will any but thoſe who have nothing elſe to recommend themſelves aſſume airs of importance on ſuch a ſuperficial

ficial foundation. The acquiſition of knowledge does not depend on place, nor long reſidence in any learned ſeminary, but on the induſtry and mental endowments of the ſtudent, and a fervent deſire to avail himſelf of every opportunity of acquiring the practical part, which the Author has ever looked upon as the foundation of the healing art. The malady commonly called Tabes Dorſalis, which makes the chief part of theſe Eſſays, was a complaint well known to the Greek Phyſicians of antiquity. But their ignorance of the anatomy of the human machine prevented them from forming a juſt idea of it; for in thoſe days human bodies were forbidden to be diſſected, and their knowledge was only founded on thoſe of brutes. Hippocrates ſays, it is cauſed by a waſting of the marrow of the back-bone, in an unnatural way; by which, he makes no doubt but this illuſtrious veteran meant the ſperm or ſeminal liquor. "The patient," ſays he, "is free from fever, ſometimes eats and di-
"geſts well, and if you aſk him with re-

" ſpect to his ſtate, he tells you, that he " feels a cold running ſtream from the ſu- " perior parts of his body [his head, I ſup- " poſe] into the ſpine of his back, and " when he diſcharges his urine or excre- " ments, but more frequently the latter, " there is ſometimes a copious evacuation " of liquid ſemen. This man," continues our ſage Philoſopher, " is incapable of pro- " pagating his ſpecies, or anſwering the " purpoſes of the marriage bed, till ſuch " time as the healing art affords him relief. " He is generally ſhort-breathed," ſays our author, " feels weak and languid, eſpe- " cially after exerciſe, and ſleep does not " afford him the wiſhed for refreſhment. " An intermitting dimneſs of ſight ſome- " times attacks him, his memory fails, and " his ſpirits are dejected."

This deſcription is admirable! Had this great man been verſed in the anatomy of the generative functions of man, how much more might have been expected from him! Our bodies ſuffer a continual waſte, and

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If we could not repair this waſte, we ſhould ſoon ſink into a ſtate of mortal weakneſs. This reparation is performed by aliments, but theſe aliments muſt undergo different preparations, which are comprehended under the word nutrition. When once this is either not produced, or but badly, all theſe aliments become uſeleſs; and ſuch diſorders muſt inevitably enſue, as are the general attendants of extreme debility. Of all the cauſes that prevent nutrition, there are none perhaps more frequent than too copious evacuations. Such is the frame of our machine, and of animal machines in general, that for theſe aliments to acquire this degree of preparation, neceſſary for the reparation of the body, it is neceſſary that a certain quantity of humours ready prepared and naturalized ſhould be always at hand. If this condition is wanting, the digeſtion and concoction of the aliments are imperfect, and the more imperfect, in proportion as the deficient humour happens to be of a more elaborate kind. Such is the male ſemen, it being of the greateſt importance in the animal

animal œconomy. The ſeminal liquor or ſperm, has ſo great an influence upon the powers of our body, and upon perfect digeſtion, which repairs them, that the diſtinguiſhed practitioners of antiquity, and indeed ſome of the preſent age, have been of opinion, that the loſs of an ounce of this humour, in an unnatural way, would weaken the body more than forty ounces of blood.

A nurſe, who ſhould die by the loſs of ſome pounds of blood, within 24 hours could have furniſhed the ſame quantity of milk to her child three or four hundred days ſucceſſively, without being ſenſibly out of order, becauſe milk is of all other humours the leaſt elaborated; it is alſo a fluid in ſome ſhape adventitious; but blood, and the ſemen ſecreted from it, is the moſt eſſential of all humours.

An idea may be formed of the importance of the ſeminal liquor, by obſerving the effects it produces as ſoon as it begins to be formed; the voice, the phyſiognomy, the very features of the face change; the beard grows, and the whole body often takes another

ther appearance, becauſe the muſcles acquire a thickneſs and firmneſs, which make a ſenſible difference between the body of an adult perſon, and that of a youth not yet arrived at the age of puberty. But theſe changes are ſometimes prevented by deſtroying the organ, which ſerves to ſeparate the liquor that produces them, hence an amputation, or a decay of the teſticles, even at the age of virility, has been known to make the beard fall, and a puerile voice return.* We may therefore conclude, that the power of its operation upon our bodies cannot be queſtioned; or can any one doubt of the various ills that muſt neceſſarily follow, from a profuſe evacuation of a humour that is ſo precious? Its deſtination determines the only proper method of its being evacuated.

Certain diſtempers cauſe it ſometimes to run off. It may be involuntarily loſt in dreams. The Author of Geneſis has given us the hiſtory of the crime of pollution in the perſon of Onan, in order doubtleſs to tranſmit to us that of his chaſtiſement: we

* Vide Boerhaave, Prelect. ad Inſtitut.

are told alſo by Galen, that illuſtrious Phyſician of antiquity, of the ſhattered and withered frames of the Cynic Philoſophers, eſpecially Diogenes, who committed this crime.

If the dangerous effects of too abundant a diſcharge of this liquor depended only upon the quantity, or were the ſame when the quantities were equal, it would be of little importance in a phyſical ſenſe, whether this evacuation was occaſioned by the natural or unnatural way; but the manner is in this reſpect what makes the baneful conſequence, and not the ſubſtance. The accidents which happen ſometimes to ſuch as waſte themſelves too much in a natural way, are dangerous, but thoſe who waſte themſelves by pollution are terrible, and the evils which ſo often ariſe in conſequence form a large branch of the ſubject in the following pages. But the cloſe connection which they have with other diſeaſes of the ſpermatic organs renders it neceſſary to deſcribe them jointly.

Such

Such conſiderations induce the Author to hope that the account contained in theſe ſheets will not prove unacceptable, and that the motives which have prevailed with him to offer a ſecond Edition will ſufficiently plead his apology for any imperfections that may appear in this performance, with regard to method or expreſſion.

Greek-ſtreet, Soho-ſquare,
April 27, 1800.

ERRATA.

Page 14, Top of Sect. 4, Part 1, *for* that ſpecies of conſumption, the Tabes Dorſalis, *read* A general view of the ſymptoms, and mutual ſympathy of body and mind, ſometimes the attendant on a Tabes Dorſalis.

22, In note, line 5, *for* he, *read* the.

28, Top of Sect. 1, Part 2, line 1, *for* exceſs, *read* effects.

65, Line 8, *for* comes, *read* come.

66, Line 22, *for* unfrequently, *read* not unfrequently.

93, Line 8, *for* conveys, *read* convey.

88, Line 22, *for* ſecretion, *read* ſecretions.

124, In note, line 4, *for* he, *read* the.

CONTENTS.

PART I.

		Page
Sect. I.	Of the diviſion of human life -	1
II.	Of the external genital parts of man	3
III.	Of the internal genital parts of man	8
IV.	A general view of the ſymptoms, and mutual ſympathy of mind and body ſometimes the attendant on a Tabes Dorſalis - - -	14

PART II.

Sect. I.	Of the effects of ſecret and exceſſive venery, with extracts from the works of the moſt celebrated practitioners of the preſent and former ages - -	28
II.	Remarks, with extracts from eminent practitioners, continued - -	37

PART III.

Sect. I.	The Author's remarks and obſervations, founded on the baſis of his own practice and experience - - -	48
II.	The effects of ſecret venery on the female ſex - - - -	52
III.	The morbid ſtate of the functions of the human machine conſidered, eſpecially digeſtion and the organs of generation	62
IV.	A ſhort detail of the mutual accord, conſent and ſympathy, in the whole nervous ſyſtem - - -	70
V.	Of the atrophia, or nervous conſumption	76
VI.	Of a phthiſis, or conſumption in general - - - -	

CONTENTS.

PART IV.

SECT. I. Semeiology, or signs of diseases - 91
II. Signs derived from the pulse - 95
III. Signs derived from respiration - 105
IV. Signs which denote disorder in the nervous system - - - - - 111
V. Signs derived from the urine - 116

PART V.

SECT. I. Weakness, considered as a species of morbid affection - - - - 126
II. Of spasm - - - - - 132
III. Of insensibility - - - - 135
IV. Excess of sensibility - - - 138

PART VI.

SECT. I. Histories of cases of the Tabes Dorsalis, and the Exoneirosis, or Pollutio nocturna - - - - - - 141
II. Histories of cases of nervous consumption, and the phthisis, or consumption in general, during the last fourteen years practice in the metropolis - 176

PART VII.

The Practice of the Author - - - 200

PART

PART I.

SECT I.

On the Diviſion of Human Life.

PHILOSOPHERS are of different opinions about the diviſions of human life; ſome divide it into four ages, others five, and others in a great many more. But to conſider this matter ſtrictly, years do not make up our ages, it is our vigour and temperament that diſtinguiſh them. We not unfrequently ſee a youth at twenty, older than a man at fifty; and ſometimes one at threeſcore, younger, by having a good temperament of body, than thoſe who have not paſſed their adoleſcent ſtate. But the opinion moſt followed, is that which divides our life into five periods. The firſt is adoleſcency, which laſts from our birth to the

age of twenty-five, after which we grow no more. From twenty-five to thirty-five, or forty, is the flower of man's age, and that may be called youth. Age of conſiſtency follows upon youth, and laſts to forty-one, or fifty; in which time, thoſe who have not deſtroyed their powers in youth, find themſelves of the ſame ſtrength and temperament. The fourth age is the firſt old age, which laſts to ſixty, and at laſt the decrepid age, which accompanies men to their graves.

Adoleſcency is alſo divided into ſeveral periods, among which, infancy has the firſt place; puerility comes next, and terminates at ten years. Age of diſcretion comes after, which ſome call *pubertas*, which laſts till eighteen; and laſt, adoleſcency, that bears the name of all that time to twenty-five years.

It is from the age of puerility to diſcretion, where the nervous ſyſtem ſuffers the moſt ſevere ſhocks from the ſeminal fluid being diſcharged by pollution, or the unnatural way. Theſe habits are contracted not unfrequently at ſchool, till by length of time, as he advances farther in years, he then begins to feel its baneful effects: his nervous ſyſtem becomes affected with alarm-

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ing ſenſations, ſometimes the hypocondriac malady; the vital functions become impaired; a kind of gloomy melancholy not unfrequently attacks the unhappy ſufferer, and in the company of women he is generally impotent.

The greateſt number of caſes that have fallen under my care, have taken their ſource from thoſe ſtages of life, and are the moſt obſtinate to conquer; the mouths of the ducts which empty the ſemen into the urethra being in general clogged with acrimonious ſtimulating matter.

SECT II.

Of the external Genital Parts of Man.

THE external genital parts of man we call the viril member, which the ancients ranked among the number of their gods under the name of Faſcinus, to teach us the empire it has acquired in the world—for they ſaid, that no charms or enchantments could equal it. If perchance a woman ſhould perceive it through ſome ſlight unfolding of the garments, their heart is at the

ſame inſtant inflamed with a paſſion that is with difficulty aſſuaged.

All ages have held it in great veneration, becauſe it is the father of human-kind, and the origin of the reſt of the parts we are compoſed of.

Villandre, as the hiſtory of France remarks, committed high treaſon, in touching the privy parts of Charles the IXth with his hands. The law of the Old Teſtament orders the woman's hand to be cut off, that ſhould have ſcornfully, or injurioufly, handled thoſe parts; and that ſame law, as well as the New, doth not allow any man that has any defaults in the engendering parts to be admitted into the holy church.

And the Caffres, a warlike people, take pride in cutting off their enemies privities in their wars, and making preſents of them to their wives and relations, who wear them about their necks as necklaces. This member, at the firſt view, may be taken for one piece, but when we examine it anatomically, it is compoſed of two or three diſtinct ſubſtances; viz. a cavernous body, and a ſpungy body, &c, compounded of nerves, arteries, and veins, with the common paſſage for the urine, and ſeed, placed in the middle. The glans, covered with its prepuce

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at one of its extremities, is endowed with ſuch tenderneſs and ſenſibility, that nature there ſeems to have eſtabliſhed the throne of ſenſuality and pleaſure in women's embraces. The nerves, when in good plight, bring ſpirits into its cavities, which increaſing, ſwell the two bodies aud the whole member. Its ſubſtance is neither ſolid nor bony. If it had been of the ſame nature of dogs and wolves, there would be great diſorder in the ſeveral adventures of men and women; and there would be little occaſion for witneſs to make out a rape. All this is not done without a myſtery, nature having a deſign in all her enterprizes, and that hardneſs and firmneſs which the vigorous often feel againſt their own minds, doth not only animate them, and prompt them to copulation, but alſo darts the ſeminal matter with force into the womb. But this is not the caſe with the impotent, or thoſe who have been addicted to the crime already mentioned, from a deficiency of that nervous ſpirit ſo neceſſary towards manhood.

It has been generally ſaid by the anatomiſts of old, as well as the preſent day, that the erection of the penis was owing to the blood paſſing through the arteries into

the cells of the corpora cavernoſa, and hindered in its return by the veins; and this account has been credited, becauſe injections thrown into the artery eaſily paſſed into the cells of the corpora cavernoſa: but this, though it proves that ſome particular injections will paſs that way, by no means proves that the blood will, becauſe the arteries let a thinner fluid tranſude through all their ſides, without ſuffering the blood to paſs that way: and thus it probably happens in this inſtance alſo.

But, in imagining that the blood is the cauſe of the erection of the penis, there was never any reaſon aſſigned by them, why the penis is not always erect, or when it is, how it becomes flaccid after it; why the blood paſſes through at ſome times, and not always; ſo that, in ſaying the blood is the cauſe of this erection, without ſaying how, is no explanation of the thing. And here, I believe, a farther proof of the vital fire of the nerves acting in the manner they will always do, when not untoned by unnatural or other cauſes, may be farther explained.

The mind then being incited from health, from love, or from whatever cauſe it may be, to the act of venery, the nervous vital fire paſſes to the corpora cavernoſa penis, and

and there diſtends the cells in the manner in which it is found at the time of erection. Now if the blood paſſes into the corpora cavernoſa, it muſt be by means of this vital fire firſt diſtending theſe cells, otherwiſe it would always paſs; but I believe that it never does paſs at all, and the whole diſtenſion is owing to the vital fire of thoſe wonderful chords called the nerves. And hence we may give ſome explanation of the reaſon for that old ſaying,

Omni animal poſt coitum triſte eſt;

The vital fire already mentioned, which is alſo the cauſe of motion, being diminiſhed by the vigour of this action, which demands more than the common offices of nature; there ſucceeds for a few moments in ſome a ſmall faintneſs about the heart, and a dejection from the want of a ſufficient quantity of this fire to give it the uſual dilatation.

And this alſo will aſſign ſome reaſon why the repetition of the venereal act depends on the health and vigour of the perſon; and why it cannot be repeated *ad libitum*: viz. the vital power being too much exhauſted, and the fluid in the cells of the corpora cavernoſa diſſipated by the repeated action, and both theſe are in proportion to the ſtate of health.

Thus it may be eaſily conceived how a deficiency of power ſo frequently happens in every ſtage of life, by means of the want of this nervous vital fire.

SECT III.

Of the internal Genital Parts of Man.

THE teſticles are ſhut up in a purſe, as ſomething very precious; from theſe, nature draws forth matter for the forming miracles every day in the production of man. Theſe parts evidence manhood and ſtrength, and it was not allowable formerly in the courts of juſtice at Rome for any man to bear witneſs againſt another, except his teſticles were entire.

Every man has commonly two teſticles; if one is diſordered, withered or wounded, the other may miniſter to generation. The Sylla's and Cotta's, &c. had naturally but one teſticle, but then nature ſhuts up in this one part all that ought to be contained in both. Pliny, the hiſtorian, tells us of a people in Africa who had three or four teſticles. And Galen tells us, there are few kingdoms but what furniſh ſome families of men with three teſticles. But if ſuch were the caſe now a days, I am convinced theſe would

not

not have the advantage of the former; because, inſtead of being more fertile by the number of theſe parts, I am of opinion they would become more ſubject to impotency, the prolific virtue being diſtributed in too many places to be of any force.

If man, ſays an ancient philoſopher*, had his teſticles hidden in his belly, there would not be a more laſcivious creature in the univerſe; therefore to avoid the diſorders of laſciviouſneſs (adds he) nature has placed them outwardly, to receive impreſſions of the injuries of the air. But I muſt ſay here, that I have had frequent opportunities of ſeeing patients with one teſticle in their belly which had never come down. And I may anſwer, that their coming down doth not hinder man from being one of the moſt laſcivious of creatures, becauſe he is diſpoſed for the delights of love, at every hour, and at every ſeaſon, whereas moſt other creatures wait for certain periods of time in order to copulate. Beſides, nature has a quite different deſign in placing theſe parts outwardly; the ſeed is much better prepared when it has room and time to perfect itſelf. Moſt children have their teſticles hidden in their belly or groin, for ſome time after birth. In ſome they come down very late, and it

* Ariſtotle.

ſometimes happens that they never come down at all; and then they might be taken for eunuchs, if they had no other proof to induce us to believe them perfect.

The lady Argentan would never have called her huſband's ability in queſtion, if ſhe had met with teſticles in his purſe, nor could they have juſtified his fruitfulneſs by all the proofs they had, if Ambroſe Paree, a famous Surgeon of old, had not found his teſticles in his belly after his death.

The Lapidary mentioned by Kerckringius, Obſ. 13. would not have ſung ſo ſtrongly, had not his teſticles been hidden in his belly, for they fell down when he was eighteen years of age, after the fit of a fever.

The great father of phyſic, Hippocrates, lays down a poſition, wherein he ſays, that the right teſticle is better than the left; and alſo that it engenders males, whereas the other produces only females. Experience and reaſon oblige me to be of a different ſentiment from that great man; for we know, that the ſemen mixing together, when ſallying out hence, the effect cannot be attributed more to one teſticle than another; but rather to the complexion of the man's and the woman's body. Moreover I have obſerved in diſſecting ſeveral teſticles, that

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the left had for the moſt part bigger arteries and veins than the other, and conſequently muſt be more heated by blood, and quickened ſpirits; beſides the left teſticle was generally bigger, firmer and fuller of ſemen than the other, whence we may reaſonably conclude againſt the opinion of Hippocrates, that it ought to contribute more towards the generation of males than the right. But neither the one nor the other produce a male ſooner than a female.

In the action between the Britiſh and Americans, at German Town, near the city of Philadelphia, on the 4th of October, 1777—Serjeant James Clark, of the 16th regiment of Light Dragoons, received a ball in his right teſticle, which I was obliged to take off on the field of battle, to ſave his life: he was about twenty-four years of age, he ſoon recovered his health and ſtrength. In two years after he married and got children of both ſexes. He is now in England, living on his penſion.

The teſticles are cloſely covered with ſeveral membranes, very hard to the point of a lancet, that the ſpirits deſtined for the life of future poſterity may not be diſſipated through the pores: their ſubſtance is an amazing clew of ſpermatic veſſels, which one may term the beginning of the preparing

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and the end of the ejaculatory ones. It is made of an infinite number of ſmall threads, which are as the ſtore-houſes of the ſeminal matter, that comes from the arterial blood, filtrated through thouſands of ſmall conduits, accompanied with a nervous juice ſliding amongſt them through various little windings. The interſtices between theſe veſſels is taken up with a glandulous ſubſtance which communicates to them a virtue to engender ſeed. Whatever is moſt pure and refined in the whole body, ſeems to be brought thither by the arteries and nerves.

The muſcles preſs and preſerve theſe two ſmall parts, and keep them up in a ſtate of health, that the preparing veſſels, and thoſe that contain the ſeed, may not be impared by the weight of the teſticles in thoſe actions they are intended for by nature. The ſpermatic arteries take their ſource from the largeſt artery in the whole body, commonly called the great trunk, or the aorta; one branch goes to each teſticle for the ſecretion of the ſeed; the redundant blood, or that which is left after the ſecretion, is carried back into the body by two ſmall veins, with a moſt admirable contrivance, one emptying itſelf into the largeſt vein of the body, called cava, and the other into the emulgent vein near the left kidney. The reaſon of this is

well

well known to moſt anatomiſts, and is unneceſſary to give here. Beſides, the nerves which ſpring from the ſixth pair, and thoſe from the lower part of the back-bone, communicate to the teſticles a ſpirituous matter proper for generation.

From the little nob called globus major, or epididymis, at the bottom of each teſticle, ariſes a ſmall tube or duct, commonly called by anatomiſts the vas deferens, which carries the pure ſemen after it is prepared in the teſticle to the cellules, or the ſtore-houſes, called veſiculæ ſeminalis, near the neck of the bladder: theſe curious little cells may be compared to the cavities of a pomegranate, when the ſeeds are taken out. The ſeed is preſerved here for ſeveral embraces, and when theſe parts are in action, it is conveyed by a continuation of the ſame tubes, which become now the ejaculatory ones, into the urethra near the proſtate gland, to complete the work. Moſt of the impotent complaints we meet with proceed from debility of theſe veſſels and a relaxation of the proſtate gland. From an unnatural agitation and ſometimes other cauſes, theſe veſſels become weakened, and are rendered incapable to ſquirt out the ſemen after having received it; hence the flagginеſs of the member, and the ſemen dribbling away.

SECT. IV.

Of that Species of Conſumption the Tabes Dorſalis.

" Without health we can enjoy no fortune; honours, riches, and all other advantages are uſeleſs."
HIPPOCRATES, de Diet. Acut. lib. iii. cap. 12.

EVERY one who addict themſelves to the odious, criminal habit of pollution, is not ſo cruelly puniſhed; but there are few who are not in ſome degree afflicted. The frequency of the acts, the variety of the conſtitutions, many foreign circumſtances, occaſion a conſiderable difference. The ills which I have moſt frequently ſeen, which I ſhall rank under the head of this ſection, are, firſt, a total diſorder of the ſtomach, the forerunner of which with ſome is the loſs of appetite; with others acute pains in different parts of the body, particularly at the time of digeſtion; ſometimes a ſickneſs at the ſtomach, baffling all common remedies. Secondly, a weakneſs in the organs of reſpiration, from which ſometimes follows a dry cough, not unfrequently a hoarſeneſs, weakneſs of the voice, and ſhortneſs of breath upon uſing common exerciſe.

exercise. Thirdly, a total relaxation of the nervous system. It is not necessary to be much acquainted with the animal œconomy to know, that these three causes may produce all kinds of languishing diseases, and experience proves to me that they daily produce them.

The accidents that result from masturbation are many, besides those which I have just recited; a considerable diminution of the powers; paleness in a greater or less degree; sometimes a sallow, cadaverous aspect, with pimples about the face, but particularly on the forehead, on the temples, and near the nose; sometimes remarkable leanness, surprising sensation at the change of the seasons, particularly in cold weather, a heaviness and languor in the eyes, a weakness of sight, with a considerable decay of the faculties in general, and particularly the memory. I must also rank the hypochondriac melancholy under the head of Tabes Dorsalis, which is no uncommon attendant; and if those who are afflicted with it give themselves up to this practice, it completes all the accidents that flow from this disorder, and renders the patient miserable. The unhappy sufferer in this malady becomes an object of compassion; we ought

to be very careful in beſtowing ſome time for enquiry, and pay the moſt careful attention towards them, for indeed there can hardly be a greater degree of miſery more afflicting to the human mind. However, this diſtemper will often take its riſe from other ſources, as I have had opportunities to obſerve in various inſtances. In this I would be underſtood to mean when it ariſes from a material cauſe, and the mind has not been previouſly affected by any paſſion which has diminiſhed the vital fire, and thus created the hypochondriac malady, and all the ſymptoms attendant on that diſorder. But whether this diſtemper ariſes from an original malady, ſorrow, or any other paſſion which exhauſts the vital fire; intemperate watching, from irregular diet, or habitual conſtitution, or to whatever cauſe it is owing, it muſt be treated according to the circumſtances of the caſe. This diſeaſe, though perhaps the moſt afflicting to the human mind, is that which draws the leaſt compaſſion from our friends; no heart ſeems ſenſible of the diſtreſs, no ſoul is touched with our ſufferings, becauſe the diſtemper does not immediately deſtroy thoſe whom it attacks; as if death was the greateſt evil, and moſt to be avoided by hu-

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man nature; yet, perhaps in this inſtance, that we cannot die becomes the greateſt calamity, and makes the moſt afflicting circumſtance of the ſituation in which the ſufferer is unfortunately placed. Many ſuicides, I am well perſuaded, are committed by thoſe labouring under this malady. To ſee no way from the wretched darkneſs in which the unhappy ſufferer is involved; to whatever corner he turns to be continually oppoſed by ſomething like deſpair, which points her dagger to the breaſt, and defends the ſole path which can lead to eaſe, and extricate the patient from the maze, which appears impoſſible to the gloomy ſituation of the ſoul. Such is the criterion of this diſeaſe. All ſeems burſting in upon the ſufferer; in whatever ſide it is viewed no light ſhines upon the mind, or if it does, it reſembles thoſe flaſhes of lightning in a ſtormy night, which only ſerve to make the darkneſs viſible, and add horror to the ſcene. This is the ſtate in general of thoſe who are unfortunately afflicted with this diſeaſe; this is the ſituation which the unthinking and giddy often laugh at, becauſe the diſorder is not immediately mortal. Beſides, the ill-timed ſarcaſm of its being affected is not unfrequently the pity they receive. The

puniſhment which ſhould attend this deriſion, and ſeems to be the moſt adequate to the crime, is a large draught from the ſame bitter cup which bids faireſt for the cure of the derider, though it alleviate nothing of the malady from thoſe who ſuffer. To deſcribe every ſymptom of this diſeaſe is to paint almoſt all others, which attend the long train of ſickneſs, ſo various it is in its appearance; yet by ſtrictly examining all, and attending to thoſe ſymptoms, which are the never failing companions of this diſorder, we may trace it back to its primary cauſe; and thus ſettle a proper method of treating it, and effectuate a cure by going directly to its origin. In diſeaſes, where the ſymptoms are ſo numerous, and apparently contradictory, to diſcover one, which will aſſign a cauſe for the reſt, is what is to be wiſhed, and always to be endeavoured after. This, it appears to me, may be obtained in this inſtance, and without much difficulty, where the practitioner has had a good ſhare of experience; as a ſpecies of this diſeaſe very often takes its riſe from indigeſtion in the ſtomach, not unfrequently the functions of generation, ſometimes the paſſions of the mind are the preceding cauſes, deſtroying the appetite and leſſening

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the vital heat, which produces the very ſame ſymptoms that follow the other manner of its being generated.

Suppoſe we take the ſymptoms, as I have often found them in this diſeaſe, and endeavour to deduce them from theſe two originals; viz. an affection of the mind, and an actual ſubſiſting ailment of the human machine in itſelf; in which I include particularly the generative functions.

The ſymptoms then, as I have generally found them in various perſons, under the inauſpicious influence of this malady, are nearly related to thoſe affections of the human frame, mentioned in the beginning of this ſection, and are as follow:

Not unfrequently ſpaſms, like thoſe attending epileptic fits, a grievous head-ach, confined to a very little part, palpitations of the heart, ſometimes a dry cough, thoſe complaints reſembling the iliac paſſion giving the countenance a ſallow tinge, like the jaundice; alſo complaints exactly reſembling the gravel. Very often a pain from the back of the head, down the whole length of the ſpine or back-bone. I have ſometimes ſeen the legs ſwell, but diſtinguiſhed from the hydropic, by their not pitting, and being greateſt in the morning;

a ſenſation of cold in all the external parts, when the patient is attacked periodically; this ſymptom generally begins the paroxiſm, and continues whilſt it laſts; the urine is ſometimes limpid, and in large quantity, at other times the contrary, with ſometimes a chalky and pink coloured ſediment; fœtid or ſour eructations from the ſtomach, and a riſing in the throat, loſs of voice, frequently a low pulſe, ſometimes a cadaverous aſpect, great dejection of ſpirits, and internal ſinkings; other times tears, without any cauſe to provoke them; the ſoul appearing to be rather ſick than the body, cheriſhing the idea of its own ſufferings.

Theſe are common ſymptoms which are the companions of the diſeaſe, not all ariſing from the ſame ſource, but differing, as the particular perſons whom it attacks are more or leſs ſubject to ſome ſingularities in their conſtitution and habit. Whatever ſtomach generates acidities from fermentation, or a putrefactive diſpoſition, in the alimentary fluids and ſolids mixed, is ſure to be viſited more or leſs with this diſeaſe. I ſhall endeavour to ſhew, that all theſe miſchiefs may ſometimes ariſe in the ſtomach, from the ſympathy of the nerves, with which it more or leſs communicates all over our whole

whole frame. I will then deduce the method, which is moſt probable to effectuate a cure, founded on the baſis of long practice and experience. Let it be remembered, that the effluvia which eſcapes from vegetables and putrid animal ſubſtances, is wonderful in repelling the fire from the animal body. This which it does totally in a large quantity, it does in an inferior degree in a leſs. Health is a due degree of animal fire, actuating the mechaniſm of the human body. Above or below this, to a certain degree, makes what is called high ſpirits, and low. To create vivacity and gay diſpoſitions, it is only neceſſary to attain the true degree of health, which is 98; below this, as we deſcend, uneaſy ſenſations accompany the deficiency. Above it to a conſiderable degree, anxiety is the attendant alſo. The pureſt health and eaſe is moſt certainly at the degree of 98; the heart is then actuated moſt agreeably to its fabric, the dilating and contracting powers being then in the trueſt equilibrium, which creates the ſenſation of eaſe and health; above or below this becomes anxiety and pain.

Hence, whenever effluvia is generated in the ſtomach, the conſequences of it are felt by thoſe labouring under this diſeaſe; for

they influence the motions of the heart, and cauſe uneaſy ſenſations. The palpitation of the heart may alſo be eaſily explained from the cauſes which occaſion this malady. If the animal fire be driven on the muſcle in too great a quantity, the heart continues dilated for the time of one pulſation, and the Syſtole * is ſuſpended during that time, and if the animal heat be diverted, or driven from that viſcus, the animating principle is not ſufficient to cauſe a Diaſtole †, and therefore the pulſation is ſuſpended for one ſtroke. Too much or too little vital heat falling on the liver, interrupts the ſecretion of the bile, which paſſing into the blood, brings on the ſallow aſpect I have already mentioned as a frequent companion of this diſeaſe, and this is the conſequence of its being deſtined to that viſcus. If it is determined to the ſpleen, it will affect that part with a ſenſation which was not felt before. It is eaſily to ſee if it is repelled on kidnies and urinary paſſages; much judgment will be required here to diſtinguiſh it

* Syſtole of the heart is, when it empties the blood into the great artery to be circulated over the whole body.

† Diaſtole of the heart is, after the blood is returned by the veins; it becomes then dilated; and by the Syſtole it is contracted; hence the continual round and round, while life laſts.

from

from a urethral complaint, thoſe parts being affected in each caſe much in the ſame manner. The dejection which hangs on the heart, and oppreſſion of the animal faculties, in like manner take their riſe from the vital fire being in an undue and unnatural proportion, either diſtending the hear too mueh by an increaſed quantity, or not ſufficiently by a diminiſhed. The latter, however, is for the moſt part the caſe, which is the cauſe of the intermitting and little creeping pulſe, which frequently attends thoſe who are afflicted with thoſe diſorders.

Long ſorrow, great anxieties, continued fears, leſſen the vital heat, and ſometimes produce this diſeaſe. The cauſes which I have aſſigned as creating this diſorder, when it ariſes from indigeſtion, will naturally produce fears; the animal heat being leſſened to the ſame degree in each caſe, and the involuntary motions of the heart meeting the ſame diſturbance from this cauſe as the other. Hence it follows, that if there be any one idea which ſhould be avoided, it is naturally ſtarting up before the mind of the patient.

Theſe being the ſymptoms, which appear to me fairly conſequent of the cauſes I have aſſigned, it appears plain, that the cure de-

pends upon taking away the cauſes of this vicious matter in the fluids; and it is evident that it ſometimes begins in the ſtomach. Great precaution is abſolutely neceſſary to be taken in the diet, by thoſe who are doomed to this diſtemper. When a due attention is paid to this, it is ſeldom but a cure may be obtained, when the cauſe is once diſcovered. When it originates ſolely in the ſtomach, an emetic is given, ſometimes with very good effect. After this, opening aromatic medicines; Galangal, Zedoary, the ſpices, and eſſential oils of a good flavour, ſuch as of Cinnamon, and of other ſweet-ſcented plants; Muſk has been given to thoſe who can bear it, and the reviving Vegetable Gums of the Eaſt; Caſtor has been of ſervice in particular caſes. Indeed the whole cure ſeems to be this, to generate a greater degree of vital heat, and correct the vicious cauſe; for which reaſon, all medicine which effectuate theſe two things are the moſt conducive to a cure.

There is a ſpecies of this diſeaſe which ariſes from the gas created from fermented vegetables. After having emptied the ſtomach and bowels as before, let the medicines be compounded of thoſe kinds, ſuch as will impart at once the powers of in-

creaſing

creaſing the vital heat, and deſtroying the fermentation. With this intent let tonic preparations be given, with thoſe which are aromatic and ſtomachic, with the fixt lixivial ſalts. This may convert the acidity into a neutral ſtate. By means of alkalies the fermentation becomes deſtroyed and prevented. The aromatics and reviving gums of the Eaſt, as ſome conſtitutions bear one, and ſome another, will create a greater heat, by ſuddenly attracting the vital fire. Theſe ſeem to be the chief objects in the cure of this diſeaſe, when it ſprings from a vicious fermentation. When the miſchief proceeds from a fermentation in the ſtomach, ſuch treatment as hath been laid down will be very proper; but when the diſeaſe takes its riſe from other cauſes, often that of the functions of generation, when the veſſels which convey the ſeed into the urethra are debilitated, when their mouths are clogged up by acrimonious matter, and their nerves* untoned

* Hence it happens, that when the ſecreted humour of the proſtate gland, &c. becomes corrupted, through which the ſeminal veſſels paſs into the urinary tube, ſtimulates the nerves of theſe fine and delicate channels, then the nerves of the human machine in general not unfrequently become more or leſs affected. We need not therefore much wonder at the variety of ſenſations which patients complain of, from the mutual accord, conſent, and ſym-

untoned and weakened, the animal heat is not high enough to convert the aliment into true nutriment, then the remedies muſt be quite different; for a medicine which will cure one, will infallibly increaſe the other. Indeed no internal medicine alone will complete the cure when the ſeminal veſſels are affected, till a proper application is applied to draw off this vicious matter.

Hence the abſolute neceſſity to diſtinguiſh the cauſes of this malady, for on this depends our ſucceſs. And there is no diſeaſe incident to the human body wherein the practitioner has a greater opportunity to diſtinguiſh himſelf, as well as the happineſs of affording relief to his fellow creature.

In all theſe diſorders the eye of the practitioner ſhould be turned on what paſſes in the generative functions, as well as the ſtomach, and the degree of vital heat of thoſe who are attacked with them. From hence he is to take his indications of cure and hopes of ſucceſs; if he diſtinguiſh well the cauſe from which they proceed, it is im-

pathy made by their commerce, their artificial poſitions, and curious ramifications throughout the whole body, which is, admirable and incomparable, ſetting forth the wiſdom and dignity of the great creator.

For the ſatisfaction of my readers, a ſhort detail will be given of them in a future ſection.

poſſible

poſſible but the patient will ſoon have the pleaſure to reap the advantage of his attention, and be reſtored to the invaluable bleſſing of health. The air, ſoil, and company, ought ſometimes to be attended to, and even the diſpoſition of the phyſician, for there are ſome of that faculty, when they are conſulted, have the air of Obadiah in the Committee, with a "Peace be to that houſe" written on their foreheads, which bring no promiſing prognoſtic. Theſe ſhould be kept from the attendance of ſuch labouring under theſe diſeaſes, with as much care as human kind from a mad dog, leſt the words, which run off like ſaliva, ſhould infect the patient yet further, and augment his ſufferings.

PART

PART II.

SECT. I.

Of the Exceſs of Secret and Exceſſive Venery; interſperſed with Extracts from the Works of the moſt diſtinguiſhed Practioners of the preſent and former Ages.

MANY evacuations from our bodies are performed imperceptibly, all the others take place in a ſtate of perfect health, with ſuch facility as to have no influence over the reſt of the machine; the ſlighteſt motion in the organ which encloſes the matter, is ſufficient for its expulſion. But this is not the caſe in evacuating the ſeed. A general motion, a convulſion of all the parts, an increaſed quickneſs in the circulation of the humours, are neceſſary to diſplace and give it vent.

It

It will therefore, I hope, be thought not too raſh to ſay, that this neceſſary concurrence of the whole machine, the inſtant of its evacuation, may be conſidered as an evident proof of its influence upon the body.

M. de Haller ſays, " it is a very violent " action which borders upon convulſion, " and which thereby ſurpriſingly weakens, " and prejudices the whole nervous ſyſtem." According to my preceding obſervations on Tabes Dorſalis, and ſome caſes which I ſhall quote hereafter, emiſſion in the unnatural way is accompanied with a kind of convulſive epilepſy; and in theſe ſubſequent remarks I purpoſe to furniſh evident proofs, of the baneful influence which theſe violent motions had upon the health of ſome unhappy objects. The weakneſs which follows the act has appeared to ſeveral perſons, and not without reaſon, as a proof that it could not be ſolely the privation of ſemen which occaſioned it; but what demonſtrably proves how much the ſpaſm muſt weaken, is the feeble ſtate of all the patients who have fallen under my care, at various periods in life, labouring under maladies ariſing therefrom: I have ſeen numbers affected as if the epilepſy had attacked them.

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The effect of this baneful practice upon the nobleman of a city in Switzerland, the hiſtory of which is handed down to us by Platerius *, could be attributed to nothing but the ſpaſms he had brought upon himſelf in his early life. He entered, ſays this celebrated Phyſician, upon a marriage, at an advanced age, with a view to get an heir to his eſtates and honours; and at the time he was endeavouring to conſummate his nuptials, he was ſeized with a violent ſuffocation, which obliged him to diſcontinue.

The like accident happened to him every time he made the ſame attempt. He applied to Platerius for his aſſiſtance, who finding him in apparent good health in other reſpects, was ſomewhat ſurpriſed at his caſe, till he had related the hiſtory.

Platerius told him he was ſorry he did not make application before. It was now his duty to adviſe him to deſiſt from any more attempts till ſuch time as he tried the effects of his remedies.

But the advice of our author was not followed. He was impatient, and applied to a variety of Quacks. One aſſured him, after he had taken a few doſes of his noſtrum, he

* Vide, Felic. Plateri, Obſervat. Lib. prim. ſuffocatio ex congreſſu, pag 174.

had

had nothing farther to apprehend. Upon the faith of which, he ventured on a freſh eſſay; the event was immediately the ſame as before, but being reſolved to go through with the operation, he died in the very act in the arms of his wife.

The violent palpitations which accompany not unfrequently patients who are affected, is ſimilar to a convulſive ſymptom. Hippocrates ſpeaks of a young man who was afflicted with inceſſant palpitations, occaſioned by ſecret and exceſſive venery *. And Dolaeus tells us, he ſaw a young man who was ſeized in the very act of polluting himſelf, and that he would have periſhed from the ſpaſmodic palpitation of his heart, had it not been for Dolaeus's aſſiſtance †.

In the early part of my life, when I was a ſtudent at St. Coſme, in Paris, a time that will be ever dear to me, I lodged in the houſe of Monſ. Petit, a celebrated Surgeon, and a Profeſſor in the King's Garden. I well remember a caſe of a young gentleman, who had brought on a violent hemorrhage of blood from his ſeed veſſels, by polluting himſelf; which practice he had learned at

* Epidem. lib 3. ——7 Og. 17 Poes. p. 1117.
† Vid. Encyclop. Medic. lib. 26, cap. p. 147.

ſchool

ſchool. Monſ. Petit had great difficulty to ſave his life.

Monſ. de Senac * is very poſitive, in attributing the debility which ſucceeds in diſcharging the ſemen, by this method, to the nerves. The ſame cauſe, ſays he, of the ſyncope which takes place, when an abſceſs breaks out upon the inſide of the thorax or abdomen, "the action of the nerves which come into play;" this is confirmed by the dejection which follows the effuſion of ſperm, and can only be imputed to the nerves.

Mr. Fleming has not omitted this cauſe, in his elegant poem on the diſorders of the nerves †.

Monſ. de Senac, in the firſt edition of his Eſſays, deſcribed particularly the danger of maſturbation, and has foretold the conſequences not unfrequently ariſing, from what he calls *that infamous practice*.

This elegant writer has given a number of caſes in the courſe of his practice, which had fallen under his care; wherein he has met, as he deſcribes them—"All the in-"firmities and imbecilities, incident to lan-

Quin etiam, nervos frangit quocunque voluptas.

* See his Treatiſe upon the Heart, lib. 4, cap. 12.

† Neuropathia, l. 1. v. 375.

"guiſhing

" guiſhing old age, in the flower of youth." Hippocrates, the moſt ancient and juſteſt obſerver, has given us a long detail of the evils that are occaſioned by the abuſe of the amorous pleaſures, under the title of the Dorſal Conſumption *. This moſt illuſtrious veteran ſeems to have been well acquainted with the diſorders proceding from ſelf-pollution. " Young people," ſays he, " who " are addicted to this habit, bring upon " themſelves a diſorder of the ſpinal mar- " row; they have no fever, and though " they eat well, they fall away, and become " conſumptive. They feel as if a ſting or " ſtitch deſcended from the head along the " ſpinal marrow. Every time they go to " ſtool, or have occaſion to urine, they " ſhed a great quantity of the ſeminal li- " quor. They are incapable of procreation, " and they frequently dream of the act of " coition. Walking particularly on rugged " paths puts them out of breath, and weak- " ens them; occaſioning an heavineſs in the " head, and noiſe in the ears, which are " ſucceeded by a fever (Lypiria)* that ter- " minates their days."

Some Phyſicians have attributed to the ſame cauſe a diſorder, which they have

* De Morbis, lib. 2, cap. 49, Poes. p. 479.

† A ſpecies of fever, in which the internal parts ſeem exceſſively hot, whilſt the external parts are cold.

named Hippocrates's Second Dorſal Conſumption; this he deſcribes in another place *; and it is in ſome degree analogous to the firſt. But the preſervation of the powers, which he particularly ſpecifies, appears to me a convincing proof, that this diſorder does not depend upon the ſame cauſe as the firſt. "Theſe pleaſures," ſays Celſus, in his excellent book upon the preſervation of health, are always hurtful to "the ſtrongeſt conſtitutions, and how much "more ſo muſt they prove to ſuch who "are of delicate frames †." Galen has obſerved, "that the ſame cauſes occaſion diſ-"orders of the brain, and of the nerves, and "deſtroy the powers ‡." And he in another place relates, "that a man who was "not quite cured of a violent diſorder, "brought on by this practice, died the "ſame night that he paid the conjugal tri-"bute to his wife."

Pliny the naturaliſt informs us, "that "Cornelius Gallus, the ancient Prætor, and "Titus Etherius, the Roman Knight, died "in the very act of coition."

The deſcription which Aetius ‖ has left us of the ills which he has ſeen to ſucceed

* De Glandulis Poeſ. p. 273.
† De Remedica, lib. 1. cap. 1 and 9.
‡ Com. ert. in lib. 3.
‖ De Signis & Cauſ. dict. morb. lib. 2. cap. 5.

a copious

a copious diſcharge of the ſemen from unnatural practice, exhibits a dreadful picture. " Young people," ſays he, " have the air " and appearance of old age; they become " pale, effeminate, benumbed, lazy, ſtupid, " and imbecile; their bodies ſometimes be- " come bent, their legs are no longer able to " carry them; they have an utter diſtaſte for " every thing, are totally incapacitated, and " many become paralytic, unleſs they fall " under the care of a ſkilful practitioner."

In another place, he includes this practice among the number of the ſix cauſes which occaſion the palſy. " The ſtomach is diſordered," ſays Aetius; " all the body is " weakened; paleneſs, bodily decay, and " emaciation ſucceed and the eyes ſink in " the head." Theſe teſtimonies of the moſt reſpectable ancients, are confirmed by innumerable modern writers.

Sanctorius *, who has examined with the greateſt attention all the cauſes which actuate our bodies, has obſerved, that this weakened the ſtomach, deſtroyed digeſtion, obſtructs that inſenſible perſpiration, the irregularity of which produces the moſt fatal conſequences; occaſions the liver and reins to be overheated, gives a diſpoſition for the

* Sanctor, Med. Stat. ſect. 6, Aph. 15, 12, 21 and 24.

ſtone in the kidneys, diminiſhes the natural heat, and uſually weakens the ſight.

The deſcription which Tulpius *, that celebrated Burgomaſter and Phyſician of Amſterdam, has left us, is another picture, not leſs extraordinary. "The ſpinal mar-" row," ſays he, "does not only waſte, but " the body and mind both equally languiſh, " and the man periſhes a miſerable victim."

"Samuel Verſpretius," continues our author, "applied to me for advice; his com-" plaint was, a flux of ſeminal matter, which " flowed from him at all times, but parti-" cularly when at ſtool, and in the company " of women, without having the powers " of manhood; in length of time it be-" came ſharp and acrimonious, attended " with great pain. After this, a ſcorbutic " eruption broke out on the hind part of his " head and the nape of his neck; from " thence it communicated to the ſpinal mar-" row, the loins, the buttocks, and the ar-" ticulation of the thigh, which made this " unfortunate man ſuffer ſuch excruciating " pains, that his countenance was diſtorted, " and he was ſeized with a ſlow fever, " which by degrees conſumed him, but not

* Obſer. Med. lib. 3, cap. 24.

" ſo

" ſo faſt as he deſired; and he was in ſuch " a ſituation, that he frequently invoked " death, before he ſnatched him from his " miſery."

SECT II.

Remarks, with Extracts from eminent Practitioners, continued.

TOO great a diſſipation of the animal ſpirits weakens the ſtomach, and nutrition being impaired, the motion of the heart is weakened, and all the parts languiſh. Phyſiologiſts have been long doubtful, whether the animal ſpirits and the nervous juice are the ſame thing, but obſervation teaches us, that theſe two fluids have a very ſtrict analogy, and the loſs of the one or the other produces the ſame ills. M. Hoffman * tells us, he has ſeen the moſt fatal accidents flow from a diſſipation of the ſeed. " After frequent " nocturnal pollution," ſays he, " not only " the powers are loſt, the body falls away, " and the face turns pale; but, moreover, " the memory fails, a cold ſenſation ſeizes " all the limbs, the ſight is clouded, and

* Conſult. Cent. 2d and 3d, caſe 102, vol. 3, p. 34.

" the voice becomes hoarſe; all the body
" languiſhes by degrees; diſturbing dreams
" prevent ſleep adminiſtering any relief, and
" ſuch pains enſue, as are felt from the
" blows of a cudgel. Among the number of caſes in the admirable works of our Author, I ſhall here tranſlate one* for the ſatisfaction of my readers.

" In a conſultation," ſays he, " which
" was held on a young man, who, among
" other ills which he had drawn upon
" himſelf by maſturbation, was afflicted
" with a great weakneſs of ſight; but I had
" ſeen ſeveral examples of the ſame before,
" even in people of an advanced age, that is
" to ſay after the body had attained its full
" vigour. The above young man, at the
" age of fifteen, having given way to this
" practice, till he was three and twenty,
" was at that period ſeized with ſuch a
" weakneſs in his head and eyes, that the
" latter were frequently afflicted with violent
" ſpaſms at the time of his ſeminal emiſ-
" ſions. When he wanted to read any thing,
" he was taken with ſuch a kind of ſtupor,
" as intoxication creates: the pupils of his
" eyes were very much dilated, and he ſuf-
" fered exquiſite pains in them. The lids

* Conſult. Cent. 2d and 3d, caſe 100.

" were

" were very heavy, and after ſhutting them-
" ſelves at night, a whitiſh foul matter
" gathered in their corners, which were
" painful. He frequently ſhed tears with-
" out being able to aſſign the cauſe of his
" melancholy. Although his appetite was
" pretty good, he was reduced almoſt to a
" ſkeleton, and as ſoon as he had done eat-
" ing, he was in a kind of intoxication."

Mr. Hoffman was ſo fortunate as to complete the cure of this young gentleman; but not before a long time had elapſed. I have adopted the mode of cure recommended by this illuſtrious Author, in a number of ſimilar caſes, with ſucceſs; and his treatment will in general prove efficacious, if the mouths of the ducts, which convey the ſeed into the urinary paſſage, are not clogged with acrimonious matter. But ſhould that be the caſe of the ſufferer in ſuch complaints, no internal remedy alone will effect a cure, until they are perfectly cleared from that ſtimulus.

Profeſſor Boerhaave* delineates theſe diſorders with that ſtrength and preciſion, which are the characteriſtics of all his deſcriptions. " The loſs of the ſeminal mat-
" ter by pollution," ſays he, occaſions laſ-

* Vide Inſtitut.

" ſitude, debilitates, and renders exerciſe
" difficult; it has cauſed convulſions and
" pain in the membranes of the brain; it
" deadens the ſenſes, and particularly the
" ſight; it gives riſe to a Dorſal Conſump-
" tion, indolence, and various other diſor-
" ders which are connected with theſe."
The obſervations which this great man communicated to his pupils, in the univerſity of Leyden, in explaining to them his Aphoriſm on the different methods of evacuation, is worthy of being related to my readers, and may be ſeen in his Commentaries, vol. 7, p. 214.

" I have ſeen a patient," ſays the illuſtrious Profeſſor, " whoſe diſorder began by
" laſſitude, and a weakneſs in all the parts
" of the body, but particularly towards his
" loins; it was attended with an involun-
" tary motion of the tendons, periodical
" ſpaſms, and bodily decay, inſomuch as
" to deſtroy the whole corporeal frame; he
" felt a pain even in the membranes of the
" brain, a pain which patients call a dry
" burning heat, and which inceſſantly
" burns internally the moſt noble parts: I
" have alſo ſeen a young man afflicted with
" the Tabes Dorſalis. His perſon was
" very agreeable, and he had been a youth of

" elegant

" elegant form; and although he was cau-
" tioned not to give way too much to plea-
" ſure, he nevertheleſs yielded to its im-
" pulſe; he became ſo deformed before his
" death, that the fleſhy ſubſtance, which
" appears above the ſpinal apophyſes of the
" loins, was entirely waſted. His brain
" appeared conſumed; in fact he became
" ſtupid. He became rigid in all his arti-
" culations. I never perceived ſo great a
" want of motion in the body from any
" other cauſe. His eyes ſunk, grew dull,
" and he loſt the power of ſight."

Mr. Ludwig,* in deſcribing the ills which ariſe from the copious evacuations, does not forget the ſpermatic. " Young peo-
" ple," ſays he, "of either ſex, who devote
" themſelves to this laſcivious practice, de-
" ſtroy their health, in diſſipating thoſe
" powers which were deſtined to bring their
" bodies to their greateſt degree of vigour,
" and they at length fall into conſump-
" tions."

After having given, I hope, ſome idea to my readers of the Dorſal Conſumption of Hippocrates, I ſhall here ſtate an obſerva-

* Vid. Inſtit. Phyſiol. 870, 872.

tion

tion of the celebrated Van Swieten,* that famous Phyſician at Vienna, whoſe reputation not only reſounded over the Germanic Empire, but over all the whole habitable world. "I have ſeen all theſe accidents," ſays he, "and ſeveral others, "befall thoſe unhappy perſons, who had "abandoned themſelves to ſhameful pollutions. For three years I uſed all the aid "that medicine could afford, without ſucceſs, for a young man, who had drawn "upon himſelf, by this practice, various "pains, extraordinary as they were general, "with alternate ſenſations of heat and cold, "particularly in the loins. Some time after theſe pains having in ſome degree "diminiſhed, he felt ſo much cold in his "thighs and legs, though to the touch they "ſeemed to preſerve their natural heat, that "he was continually warming himſelf at a "fire, even in the heat of ſummer. My "admiration was particularly excited during "this period, by the continual rotation of "his teſticles in the ſcrotum, and the pa-"tient felt the ſame ſenſation by a ſimilar "motion in the loins, which was very

*Vide Van Swieten, Aph. 586, tom. 2, p. 46.

"troubleſome

" troubleſome to him." Our Author here ſtops ſhort in his account of this caſe, as he does not inform us whether this unhappy patient ended his days at the expiration of the three years, or whether he languiſhed longer.

Monſ. Klookof,* in an excellent work which he has written upon the diſorders of the mind, relative to the body, confirms by his obſervations thoſe which have already been made. " Too great a diſſipation of " the ſeminal fluid by polluters weakens the " ſpring of all the ſolid parts; hence ariſe " weakneſs, lazineſs, inertneſs, phthiſics, " dorſal conſumptions, numbneſs, and a de- " privation of the ſenſes, ſtupidity, madneſs, " faintings, and convulſions."

Mr. Lewis † deſcribes all theſe ills. I ſhall not in this place extract any more of his work than juſt what relates to the mind. " All the ills," ſays he, " that are occaſion- " ed by exceſſes with women, are not to be " compared to thoſe which quickly follow " in youth the abominable practice of " ſeminal pollution, and which it would be

*Vid. Monſ. Klookof de morb. animo ab infirm. medul. cerebri, p. 37.

†Vide his Practical Eſſay upon the Tabes Dorſalis, third edition, 1749.

" difficult

" difficult to paint in colours ſo glaring as " they merit: a practice to which youth de- " vote themſelves, without being acquaint- " ed with the enormity of the crime, and " all the ills which are its phyſical conſe- " quences. The ſoul is ſenſible of all bo- " dily diſorders, but particularly of thoſe " which ariſe from this cauſe. The moſt " clouded melancholy indifference (might " one not ſay, even averſion) for all plea- " ſure; the impoſſibility of ſharing in the " converſation of company, wherein they " are always abſent; the thought of their " own unhappineſs, the deſpair which ariſes " from conſidering themſelves the architects " of their own miſery, and the neceſſity of " renouncing the felicities of marriage, are " the fluctuating ideas which compel theſe " miſerable objects to ſequeſter themſelves " from the world, and happy are thoſe who " do not put the the finiſhing hand to their " exiſtence."

Monſ. Mieg, a celebrated Phyſician of Baſle, who is well known to the learned world, by his excellent Diſſertations, and to whom his country is highly indebted for the diſcovery of inoculation, has given us a very extraordinary caſe of a young lady, between twelve

twelve and thirteen years of age, who, by this deteſtable practice, brought upon herſelf a conſumption, with a large hanging belly, the Fluor Albus, and Diabetes. Medicines, he ſays, gave her ſome eaſe for a time, but ſhe continued languiſhing till ſhe died.

I ſhall conclude this ſection, with a fine paſſage from that excellent work, with which M. Gaubius* has enriched the healing art. He does not only paint the ills, but he alſo points out the cauſes, with that ſtrength, truth, ſagacity and preciſion, which are poſſeſſed only by the greateſt maſters. His work being written in the dead language, its beauties can only be ſeen by thoſe who are verſed in the knowledge of the Latin tongue.

" Immoderata ſeminis profuſio, non ſo-
" lum utiliſſimi humoris jacturâ, ſed ipſo
" etiam motu convulſivo, quo emittetur,
" frequentius repetito, imprimis lædit.—
" Etenim ſummam voluptatem univerſalis
" excipit virium reſolutio, quæ crebro ferri
" nequit, qui enervet. Colatoria autem
" corporis quo magis emulgentur, eo plus
" humorum aliunde ad ſe trahunt, ſuccif-
" que ſic ad genitalia derivatis, relique partes

*Vide Inſtitutiones Pathologiæ medicinalis. H.D. Gaubio Lugdoni Bat, 1758.

" depouperantur;

" depouperantur; inde ex nimia venere
" laſſitudo, debilitas, immobilitas, inceſſus
" delumbis, encephali dolores, convulſiones
" ſenſuum omnium, maxime viſus, habitu-
" do, cœcitas, fatuitas, circulatio febrilis,
" exſiccatio, macies, tabes et pulmonica et
" dorſalis, effeminatio. Augentur hæc
" mala atque inſanabilia fiunt ob perpetuum
" in venerem pruritum, quem mens, non
" minus quam corpus, tandem contrahit;
" quoque efficitur, ut et dormientes obſcena
" phantaſmata excerceant, et in tentiginem
" pronē partes quavis occaſione impetum
" concipiant, onerique et ſtimulo ſit quam
" libet exigua reparati ſpermatis copia, le-
" viſſimo conatu, et vel ſine hoc, de relax-
" atis loculis relapſura.

" Quocirca liquet, quare adoleſcentiæ
" florem adeo peſſumdet iſte exceſſus."

Here follows the tranſlation, for the ſatisfaction of the Engliſh reader,

" An immoderate emiſſion of ſeed is not
" only prejudicial, by reaſon of the loſs of a
" moſt uſeful humour, but likewiſe by a too
" frequent repetition of the convulſive mo-
" tion in the manner by which it is diſ-
" charged; for the higheſt pleaſure is fol-
" lowed by an univerſal reſolution of the

" natural powers, which cannot frequently
" take place without enervation. Beſides,
" the more the ſtrainers of the body are
" drained, the more humours they draw to
" them from the other parts; and the juices
" being thus conveyed to the genitals, the
" other parts are impoveriſhed. Hence it
" is, that from exceſſive ſecret venery ariſe
" laſſitude, weakneſs, numbneſs, a feeble
" gait, headachs, convulſions of all the ſenſes,
" but eſpecially of the ſight, and dullneſs of
" hearing, an idiot look, a feveriſh circu-
" lation, exſiccation, leanneſs, a conſump-
" tion of the lungs and back, and effemina-
" cy; theſe evils are increaſed and become
" incurable, by reaſon of a perpetual itch
" for pleaſure, which the mind at laſt con-
" tracts as well as the body; and from
" whence it follows, that they have obſcene
" dreams in ſleep, and that the prone parts
" have a tendency to eject the quantity of
" replaced ſemen, however ſmall, becom-
" ing a burthen and a ſtimulus, which ſeed
" will be diſcharged from the relaxed cells,
" by the very ſlighteſt effort, and even with-
" out any effort at all. Thus it is, that
" this exceſs brings ſuch perdition on the
" flower of our youth."

PART.

PART III.

SECT. I.

The Author's Remarks and Obſervations, founded on the Baſis of his own Practice and Experience.

HAVING given a few extracts in the preceding chapters, from the works of the moſt renowned practitioners in the healing art, I ſhall now proceed to detail my own obſervations in as conciſe and perſpicuous a manner as I poſſibly can. Ever ſince I commenced the practice of medicine, I have made it an invariable rule to make my remarks from time to time, on the ſymptoms, and appearances of the caſes which have fallen under my care. And as changes took place from day to day, either for the better or the worſe, they were immediately committed to writing, and form a volume at preſent of no inconſiderable ſize.

Having

Having purſued this method for many years, I now meet with no caſes in practice, to which I find not parallels in my written repoſitory; ſo that in the proſecution of the cure, I have little more to do than to vary the doſes of the remedies according to the different conſtitutions, and temperaments of the patients. To enter into anatomical diſquiſitions of the organs of generation, and the manner in which the ſeminal liquor is ſeparated from the blood, and to enlarge on the importance of that fluid, would unneceſſarily ſwell the work. I have already given a curſory view of thoſe particulars in Part I. Sect. III. which is enough for our purpoſe. To prove the utility of the ſemen, and ſhow the circumſtances which attend its emiſſion by unnatural means, I have produced the teſtimonies of the moſt eminent phyſicians, whoſe works will be looked on as tribunals of medicine till time be no more.

But notwithſtanding the general view before given, I ſhall here, to aid the memory, range, under the ſix heads following, the various ills of which patients generally complain, beginning with the moſt grievous, thoſe of the mind.

1. All the intellectual faculties are weakened, the memory fails, the ideas are clouded, the patients ſometimes fall into great languor; they have an inceſſant irkſome uneaſineſs, continual anguiſh, and not unfrequently ſhed involuntary tears. They are ſometimes ſubject to vertigoes.

Their ſenſes, but particularly their ſight and hearing, are ſometimes impaired. Their ſleep is diſturbed with frightful dreams.

2. The powers of the body decay. The growth of youth is greatly prevented. Some patients cannot ſleep at all, others are in a ſtate of perpetual drowſineſs. They are more or leſs affected with hypochondriac and hyſteric complaints, with all their diſtreſsful concomitants, melancholy, ſighing, tears, palpitations, ſuffocations, and faintings. Some emit a calcareous ſaliva, and are afflicted with coughs, ſlow fevers, and conſumptions.

3. The moſt acute pains form another claſs of evils: ſome patients I have ſeen tormented in their heads, others in their breaſt, ſtomach, and inteſtines, others with external pains like rheumatic, with aching numbneſs in all parts of the body, eſpecially when ſlightly preſſed. I have ſeen others labour-

ing under an irritation of the bladder, with an almoſt conſtant inclination to make water, depriving them of every comfort.

4. Pimples ſometimes appear in the face, particularly of young people: I have ſeen them both in the breaſt and thighs, attended with painful itchings. I have alſo ſeen fleſhy excreſcences on the forehead.

5. But the organs of generation more eſpecially ſhare in that miſery, of which they are ſo often the primary cauſes.

Many patients are incapable of erection with the fineſt woman, others diſcharge their ſeminal liquor on the ſlighteſt titillation, and feebleſt erection, and often in the efforts they make when at ſtool. Many are affected with a conſtant oozing of ſlimy mucus, which gradually deſtroys the powers. Some are tormented with diſuriæ, ſtranguries, heat of urine, and difficulty in voiding it. Some have painful tumours on their teſticles, penis, bladder, and ſpermatic chord.

6. The functions of the bowels are ſometimes quite diſordered, and ſome patients complain of ſtubborn coſtiveneſs, others of the hemorrhoids or piles, and a running of fœtid matter from the fundament. This laſt ſymptom calls to my mind a patient

mentioned by M. Hoffman (whom I have already quoted) who, paying more attention to his pollutions, than he didto the advice of our author, brought on himſelf a fiſtula, which in a ſhort time ended his days.

SECT. II.

The Effects of Secret Venery on the Female Sex.

THIS ſubject would be treated rather imperfectly, if I did not inform the ſofter ſex, that in purſuing the practice of maſturbation, they expoſe themſelves to the ſame dangers: all the diſorders I have been deſcribing, women have frequently brought upon themſelves; and that freſh victims of the female ſex every day ſacrifice themſelves to this deſtructive phrenzy: the diſorder ſeems to make as great progreſs with women as men. Beſides all theſe ſymptoms already deſcribed, women are more particularly expoſed to hyſterical fits,

or

or ſhocking vapours, to incurable jaundices, to violent cramps in the ſtomach and back, to acute pains in the head, to the fluor albus, the accretion whereof is a continual ſource of ſmarting pain, to deſcents and ulcerations of the womb, and to all the infirmities which theſe two diſorders bring on, to the extention and darting of the clitoris, to the furor uterinus, which at once deprives them of decency and reaſon, and puts them upon a level with the moſt laſcivious brutes, till ſome fatality ſnatches them from pain and infamy. The phyſiognomy, that faithful mirrour of the ſtate of ſoul and body, gives the firſt indications of the internal diſorder. The complexion and plumpneſs, which jointly confer a youthful look, and which is the ſole ſubſtitute of beauty, for without this even beauty produces no other effect than cold admiration: this complexion and plumpneſs are, I ſay, the firſt things that diſappear; then a leanneſs ſucceeds, and the ſkin becomes rough, and tinged of a plumbane colour; the eyes loſe their brilliance, and deaden, and by their languor expreſs that of the whole frame; the lips loſe their vermillion hue, the teeth their whiteneſs; and in a word, it is no uncommon thing for the whole body to re-

ceive ſuch a ſhock as for the ſhape to be intirely diſtorted. The rachitis, commonly called the rickets, is not a diſorder, as Profeſſor Boerhaave repreſents, that afflicts any, when they are paſt three years old.—We often ſee young people of both ſexes, but particularly females, who, after being well made at the age of eight, ten, twelve, fourteen, and even ſixteen years, gradually become crooked by the bending of the ſpine, and this diſorder frequently gets to a great head. But I ſhall not take up my reader's time in entering into the particulars of this diſorder, or enumerating the cauſes that occaſion it. Hippocrates has already ſpecified two *. I may perhaps have occaſion, in ſome future work, to communicate what I have acquired by frequent obſervations upon this ſubject; but what I have here to ſay is, that maſturbation is amongſt the foremoſt of its cauſes. M. Hoffman has already ſaid, that young people, who addicted themſelves to amorous pleaſures, before they had attained their full growth, would fall away and diminiſh, inſtead of growing †; and it is plain that the ſame

* Aphor. § 6. 46. † De ætate conjugio opportuna, § 10. Supplem. ſecund. p. 340. This whole diſſertation deſerves reading.

cauſe

cauſe that may prevent growth, ſhould by a ſtronger reaſon diſtort it, and produce irregularities in its gradations, which contribute to the diſorder I have been ſpeaking of.

A common ſymptom in both ſexes, and wh'h I rank under this article, as it is more frequent among women, is the indifference which this practice leaves for the lawful pleaſures of Hymen, even when their inclinations and powers ſtill remain, an inference which does not only induce many to embrace a life of celibacy, but even accompanies the nuptial bed.

In the collection of the celebrated Dr. Bekkers, a female acknowledges, that this practice had gained ſo complete a dominion over her ſenſes, that ſhe deteſted the lawful means of aſſuaging the luſt of the fleſh.

The late profeſſor Cleghorn, whoſe great candour and profeſſional talents will ever be admired by his country, informed me that a young lady, 18 years of age, for whoſe health he was conſulted, was ſeized with an aſtoniſhing weakneſs; her powers daily diminiſhed; in the day time ſhe was conſtantly overcome with drowſineſs, and was at night unable to ſleep; ſhe loſt her appetite, and a dropſical ſwelling ſpread all over her body: ſhe had long conſulted other

practitioners. When Mr. Cleghorn found that her courſes were regular, he ſuſpected maſturbation. The effect of the queſtion which he put confirmed the juſtneſs of his ſuſpicion, and the patient acknowledging it convinced him: he repreſented to her the danger of ſuch a practice, a ceſſation of which, with the treatment of the profeſſor, ſtopped the progreſs of her diſorder, and after a long time re-eſtabliſhed her health. Beſides maſturbation, or manual pollution, there is another kind of pollution, which may be called Clitorical, the known origin of which is to be traced ſo far back as the ſecond Sappho;

" Lesbides infamem que me fecitis amatæ:

and which was ſo much too common amongſt the Roman women, at the time when all morality was loſt, that it was more than once the ſubject for the epigramatiſts and ſatiriſts of the age.

" Leonem ancillas poſita Laufella corona
" Provocat, et tollit pendentis præmia coxæ,
" Ipſa Medullina frictum criſantis adorat,
" Palmam inter dominas virtus natalibus æquat *.

Nature has been pleaſed to give ſome women a ſemi-reſemblance to man; this

* Juvenal, Sat. 6. v. 321.

has

has upon ſlight enquiry given riſe to the chimera, which has prevailed for ſome centuries, of hermaphrodites. The ſupernatural ſize of a part, which is naturally very ſmall, and whereupon Monſieur Trouchin has given a learned diſſertation, produces all the miracle, and the ſhameful abuſe of this part all the evil. Some women who are thus imperfect, glorying perhaps in this kind of reſemblance, ſeized upon the function of virility *.

The danger of this kind of pollution is not, however, leſs than that of the other ſorts of maſturbation: the effects are equally ſhocking, all the paths lead to emaciation, languor, pain, and fatality. This laſt ſpecies deſerves great attention, as I have reaſon to ſuppoſe it is frequently practiſed at preſent, and it would be eaſy to find more than one Laufella, or a ſingle Medullina, who, like theſe Roman females, ſo much eſteem the gifts of nature as to think they ought to aboliſh the arbitrary diſtinction of birth.

Women have been known to love girls with as much fondneſs as ever did the moſt

* Illas dixit gracia Tribades, Gallis dicuntur Ribaudes: Menſtrum quotidie naſcens, & cui eo confidentius ſeſe tradunt puellæ, quod abeſt fœcunditas &, ut dixit Juvenalis, quod abortiva non eſt opus.

paſſionate

paſſionate of men, and conceive the moſt poignant jealouſy, where they were addreſſed by the male ſex upon the ſcore of love. Nothing is of more importance to the preſervation of the human ſpecies, than the endeavouring to prevent the practice of ſecret venery, which ſtrikes at the very root of fertility.

The ſecrecy with which this crime may be committed is a great inducement to it, and this above all others is the moſt dangerous to the fair ſex in particular, as they are naturally more baſhful than man, and whom cuſtom has precluded from making any advances towards a mutual commerce with the other ſex.

When women who are apparently of a ſanguine and amorous conſtitution ſhall betray no inclination to venereal embraces, and even refuſe advantageous matches, to what other cauſe can we impute it, but their being capable of pleaſuring themſelves in this private way, and keeping up a ſhew of chaſtity, while they are abandoned to the moſt irregular luſts? Far be it from me to accuſe the lovely fair indiſcriminately, we have too great a regard for their ſex; but it is our wiſh to ſhew its bad effects upon their conſtitution, as they are many and great. If

practiſed

practiſed too often, it relaxes and ſpoils the retentive faculty. It occaſions the whites, a very troubleſome and ſometimes dangerous diſeaſe to women. It ruins the complexion, makes them look pale, frequently ſwarthy and hagged. It cauſes hiſteric diſorders, and not unfrequently, as well as in men, by draining away the radical moiſture, fatal conſumptions. It produces heats in the privaties, belly, thighs, with ſhooting pains in the head, and all over the body.

It ſometimes brings on a furor uterinus, or an inſatiable appetite to venery. But what it is moſt liable to produce is barrenneſs, by cauſing an indifference to the pleaſures of Venus, and in time a total inaptitude to the act of generation itſelf. Virgins, who have over eagerly indulged themſelves in the uſe of their bodies, have ſometimes defloured themſelves, and deſtroyed the valuable badge of their chaſtity, which it is expected they ſhould not part with before marriage; but which when loſt can never be retrieved.

Many are the diſeaſes and inconveniences which the fair ſex are capable of bringing upon themſelves, by an unnatural uſe of their own bodies: and what effect this muſt have upon the ſpirits of the woman who

who finds herſelf in any of theſe deplorable circumſtances, when ſhe reflects that her misfortune is owing to her own actual fault, it will not be difficult to conceive.

With regard to maids, who have by this practice deprived themſelves of that ſacred badge; the loſs of which, before marriage, was ſo ſeverely puniſhed among the Jews; under what apprehenſions muſt they continually lie: with terrors they approach the marriage bed, which was deſigned for the ſeat of the higheſt ſenſible enjoyment, when they reflect that their virtue, on the firſt amorous encounter, is liable to ſuch ſuſpicions as may never be worn off, but which may render uncomfortable the whole life, both of her, and her otherwiſe affectionate huſband. But for ſelf abuſe there is no other infliction, no other puniſhment but ſelf conſciouſneſs. And indeed there can be no other. The very nature of it, which renders it ſecure againſt detection, would fruſtrate any proviſion that could be made in this caſe by the legiſlature. And beſides this ſecurity from legal animadverſion, it is ſafe from the conſequence which ſingle women muſt fear in their commerce with men, that of becoming pregnant. And it is more than probable that ſome give into this

this way out of caution. And many, I am of opinion, are loth to truſt their fortunes and prerogatives into the hands of a man, and therefore will not marry. And as to unlawful embraces, they are afraid to venture on them for many reaſons. But it is my ardent wiſh to ſhew that there can be no excuſe for a practice, which, beſides its wickedneſs, is the moſt prejudicial that can be to the human conſtitution.

We ſhall not in this place make farther obſervations. Theſe which remain will be more properly ranked in the future pages.

SECT.

SECT. III.

The Morbid State of the Functions of the Human Machine conſidered, eſpecially Digeſtion, and the Organs of Generation.

IT has been already obſerved, that maſturbation was more pernicious to the conſtitution than exceſſes committed with women. Thoſe who make a particular providence interpoſe on all occaſions perhaps may be of opinion, that the reaſon is the ſpecial will of that providence to puniſh this crime. Being perſuaded that bodies have, ever ſince their creation, been ſubjected to laws which neceſſarily regulate all their operations, and the œconomy of which has never been changed by divine influence, but in a very ſmall number of ſelect caſes. Hippocrates, when ſpeaking of a diſorder, which the Scythians attributed to a particular puniſhment from God, makes this beautiful reflection. " It is true (ſays the venerable " Father of Phyſic) that this diſorder comes " from God, but it comes in the ſame man-

" ner

" ner as all others do: no one comes more " particularly from the Omnipotent than " others, becauſe they are all a neceſſary " ſequel to the laws of nature, which rule " all things *." Moderate coition is uſeful when nature ſolicits for it, but when it is ſolicited by the imagination, it weakens all the faculties, and particularly the memory. This is eaſily explained. Nature in a ſtate of health does not inſpire deſires, but when the veſiculæ ſeminalis † are replete with a quantity of liquor, which has acquired ſuch a degree of thickneſs, as to render its return into the maſs of blood difficult; and in theſe circumſtances, when a natural evacuation follows, we may be pretty well aſſured, that the body will not be thereby ſenſibly weakened. But ſuch is the organization of the genital parts, that their action, and the deſires which ſucceed are put into play, not only by the preſence of a ſuperabundant ſeminal liquor; but alſo the imagination having great influence upon theſe parts, it may by being occupied with deſires, put them into ſuch a ſituation as ſerves recipro-

* De arte, locis et aquis, p. 293.

† The ſeminal veſſels; an account of which ſee Part I. Sect. III.

cally

cally to excite them, and desire leads to the act, which is the more pernicious in proportion as it is unnecessary. This organ of convenience is like all the others, which are never properly actuated, but when nature stimulates them.

Hunger and thirst indicate the want of food and drink. If a greater quantity of either is taken than these sensations require, the surplus prejudices and weakens the body. The necessity of going to stool and voiding urine, is signified by certain physical conditions; but a bad habit may so far deprave the constitution of the organs, that the necessity of these evacuations may no longer depend upon the quantity of matter to be evacuated. We subject ourselves to want without being in want; and such is the case of polluters. It is imagination, habit, and not nature, that importune them. They drain nature of that which is so necessary. At length, in consequence of that law of the animal œconomy, whereby all humours are attracted by irritation, there is a continual conflux of humours upon these parts; and I have repeatedly found the mouths of the seminal ducts, of patients labouring under a Tabes Dorsalis, in a state

of

of ulceration *. I have alſo found them as if exhauſted by perpetual fatigue, and ſeized with all the diſorders incident to the brain, melancholy, epilepſy, imbecility, the loſs of ſenſation, a general weakneſs of the nervous ſyſtem, and a variety of ſimilar diſorders.

Convulſions and paralitic affections ſometimes comes on, and the nerves become more extended, or rather are put into extraordinary action; the conſequence whereof is an exceſſive relaxation.

Every organ of the human body, that is carried above its proper pitch, falls beneath it, wherefore the functions that depend thereon are neceſſarily ill performed; and as the nerves have an influence over them all, there are none which are not diſordered, when they are weakened. The weakening of the nervous ſyſtem is heightened by the increaſed quantity of blood in the brain during the act. And various examples of its having produced apoplexies may be found in the commentators, and particularly by Hoffman, whom I have already quoted.—This increaſe of blood explains alſo how

* There is an excellent paſſage upon the force and danger of voluptuous habits, in a treatiſe publiſhed by my intimate friend M. Pujalti, profeſſor, at Padua, and long ago celebrated by his excellent performances. De victis fribricitantium, p. 60.

theſe exceſſes produce inſanity. This quantity of blood diſtending the nerves weakens them: and they are leſs able to reſiſt impreſſions, whereby they are enfeebled. Beſides the other diſorders which we ſo often find derange the animal œconomy are eaſily explained, viz. depraved digeſtion, weakneſs of the brain, and of the nervous ſyſtem, and the irregularity of inſenſible perſpiration. We ſhall find that there is no chronic diſtemper * that may not be deduced from this triple cauſe. Digeſtion, concoction, perſpiration, and the other evacuations are no longer performed as they ought to be: hence ariſes a ſenſible diminution of the powers of the memory, and even of the underſtanding: the ſight is often clouded, complaints ſimilar to gout and rheumatiſm, weakneſs in the back, and the atrophia or conſumption ariſe from the ſame cauſe. The organs of generation are hereby enfeebled, the urine now unfrequently puts on a morbid hue, and a great number of other diſorders tending to ſhorten the duration of life. I have at various times ſeen patients, whoſe ſtomach was the firſt part ſenſible of all the cauſes that occaſion weakneſs, becauſe

* Chronical Diſeaſes are ſuch as come on at certain times, and do not come to a height immediately, but by ſlow degrees. The patient is attacked by intervals, living in a ſtate of miſery, perhaps, many years before his death.

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its functions require the greateſt perfection of the organs. The greateſt part of the others are equally paſſive as active: but the ſtomach is almoſt totally active; ſo that when its powers diminiſh, its functions are diſordered: this obſervation, joined to the following, and the variety of firſt impreſſions (frequently diſagreeable) which are produced upon this viſcera by what is ſwallowed, accounts for the frequency, the extraordinarineſs, and the ſtubbornneſs of the diſorders to which it is incident. It receives a greater number of nerves than any other part of the body; and therefore diſtributes a greater quantity of animal ſpirits.

What weakens the action of the one, and diminiſhes the quantity, or changes the quality of the other, muſt conſequently diminiſh its powers.

When the digeſtion is imperfect, the humours imbibe a crude quality, which renders them unfit for their various deſtinations; and which particularly prevents nutrition, upon which the reparation of all the power depends. To be convinced of the general influence of the ſtomach, it is only neceſſary to obſerve the ſtate of a perſon who labours under a difficult digeſtion; the powers are ſometimes loſt, a general un-

eaſineſs makes the weakneſs more inſupportable; the organs of ſenſe are benumbed; the faculties are exerciſed very imperfectly; the memory, and particularly the imagination, ſeems to be annihilated.

The weakneſs of the nervous ſyſtem, which ſubjects the body to all paralytical and ſpaſmodical accidents, is frequently occaſioned, as I have already ſaid, by the convulſive motions that accompany unnatural emiſſions in ſome temperaments, and by a vicious digeſtion. Whenever this is faulty the nerves are thereby affected, and the more ſo as the fluid which penetrates them is the laſt work of concoction, and to produce which it ſhould be perfect: whenever it is otherwiſe, it is the animal fluid, which of all others is the moſt ſenſibly affected by it, and upon which the crude humours has the greateſt influence. In fine, what increaſes this weakening, is the evacuation of a humour analagous to the animal ſpirits, and which in proportion to this analogy cannot be evacuated, without diminiſhing the ſtrength of the nervous ſyſtem.

I attribute all to the ſtrength of theſe ſpirits. Moreover, abſtracted from the damage which reſults from this evacuation, with reſpect to the quantity of animal

ſpirits,

ſpirits, it is prejudicial, inaſmuch as it deprives the veſſels of that gentle ſtimulation, which is produced by the abſorbed ſemen, and which contributes ſo much to concoction. It is therefore prejudicial, as well by ſubſtracting part of the animal ſpirits, or at leaſt of a very precious humour, and by diminiſhing the concoction, without which theſe ſpirits are only improperly and inſufficiently prepared.

There is a vicious concatenation between the diſorders of the ſtomach, and thoſe of the nerves. The firſt ſometimes give riſe to the latter, and the latter ſometimes to the former, and theſe being once formed, highly contribute to increaſe the firſt. If daily experience did not evince it, an anatomical inſpection of the ſtomach only would be a ſufficient teſtimony. The great quantity of nerves which there diſtribute themſelves demonſtrate how far they are neceſſary to aſſiſt its functions, and is a convincing proof how much theſe functions muſt thereby be diſordered, when they are not in a ſound ſtate.

SECT. IV.

A ſhort Detail of the Mutual Accord, Conſent, and Sympathy in the Whole Nervous Syſtem.

IT appears evidently clear from reaſoning and argument, that the intellectual faculties receive their powers of action from the laws of matter and motion, while the ſoul reſides in the human machine. We will, therefore, go on to diſcover, as well as the nature of the ſubject will admit, how all our ſenſations are communicated to the underſtanding, by the mediation of bodily organs; that is, how the materials of all our knowledge, &c. are tranſmitted to our thoughts by means of the nerves, and the mechaniſm of theſe curious inſtruments neceſſary to produce theſe ſenſations. That infinitely better part, the ſoul, would be but little or not at all concerned for the ſufferings of the body, were it not liable to be affected with all thoſe pleaſures and pains that tended to its health and ſickneſs; but it could not be affected with thoſe ſenſations

tions of pleaſure and pain, were it not for thoſe fine threads the nerves, that every where ſtrike the mind with the idea of ſenſation upon the application of any object. Every fibre of the body is perceived to be affected with the ſenſe of feeling, but we cannot conceive how this feeling faculty can ever be lodged in the fibre; that is, the nervous ſyſtem, as a bundle of fine chords curiouſly interwove, can perceive nothing apart from the mind.

If we divide a nerve, the part it is diſpoſed to will immediately loſe all ſenſation, unleſs ſome other branch furniſh it with a ſlip. However, it will be deprived of all ſenſation it derived from the former nerve.

It would appear then that the body feels not, but the ſoul, and that it has pleaſed the divine author of nature to communicate to certain fibres, ſo and ſo modulated, a power or capacity of tranſmitting the ideas of all objects, that enter by any of the ſenſes to the underſtanding. This capacity of the fibres, in the tranſmiſſion of objects, we call ſenſation; and theſe ſenſations are furniſhed to the mind, from a certain modulation of fine white pellucid chords, we call nerves.

In diſſections, upon viewing theſe fine chords that are the inſtruments of ſenſe,

motion, and ſtrength in animal bodies, we perceive that they derive their origin from the brain, cerebellum, and medulla ſpinalis, or the cavity contained in the back-bones, from the neck to the loins. But one of the great fathers of phyſic, Ariſtotle, believed them to be originated from the heart, and thus erroneouſly taught his followers. Such was the ignorance of the ſtructure of the human body in thoſe days. There are ten pair that ariſe within the ſkull, whoſe fibres are diſplayed upon the ſeveral organs of the four ſenſes, viz. viſion, hearing, taſting, and ſmelling. The reſt are thirty pair in number, which ariſe from the medulla ſpinalis or ſpinal marrow, that in their deſcent down the ſpine come out from between the vertebræ of the neck, back, and loins. Theſe vertebral nerves give to every point of the body, where they come, a moſt ſenſible idea of touch, which would be inexpreſſibly affecting, were not their ſenſations ſomewhat abated by a fine carnous covering. While the nerves of the animal machine continue juſtly modulated, or braced up according to the regular ſtandard of nature's laws, the mind will perceive itſelf perfectly at eaſe, and free from all manner of pain and uneaſineſs.

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This is the neareſt indication that the ſeveral undulating fibres are acceding neareſt to the balance of nature; for it is impoſſible that any organ of the reaſoning inſtrument can be out of tune, but that the mind will perceive it; ſo that upon theſe grounds we have a ſtandard to go by, or a director to inform us whenever this ſyſtem of matter and motion is any way affected. And not only ſo, but this thinking being is capable of pointing out the very part it perceives primarily affected, which ſtill gives us the greater aſſurance, that a diſeaſe ſubſiſts in the body.

Indeed the harmony of the human fabrick is ſo ſurprizingly contrived, that the mind and body ſhall equally ſuffer under all the different circumſtances of life; ſo that if the bodily organs be faint, weary, or any ways diſconcerted in their ſprings, the mind perceives their affection, and is affected with the change.

Hence it is that all remedies adminiſtered for the cure of diſeaſes muſt act upon the bodily organs. By raiſing the contraction of the arteries we at the ſame time increaſe the circulation of the blood, raiſe the beating of the pulſe, the motion of the heart, and quicken the circulation of the animal fluids,

fluids, whereby all the ſenſes are revived, the faculties dilated, and the ſoul itſelf cheered, by thoſe fine, ſoft, undulating motions, that the fibres thus aſſiſted ſtrike upon the paſſions. But it too often happens that the fibres of theſe wonderful organs becomes relaxed and untoned, from a variety of cauſes; the chief of which I believe to be the tabes dorſalis, originating in the veſſels which convey the ſeed into the urinary paſſage. It will then follow that the body is deprived of its fine functions, the health of the patient declines, ſtupors, numbneſs, and a variety of ſenſations affect the ſeveral members of the frame in a very ſingular manner. This ariſes, as I have before obſerved, from the mutual conſent and ſympathy that exiſts between all the reſt of the nerves of the machine, of which I could give numbers of inſtances; but one may ſuffice for a ſample of the whole, and that ſhall be the great ſympathy occaſioned by the fifth pair of nerves. This fifth conjugation of nerves is branched to the ball, the muſcles and glands of the eye, to the ear, to the jaws, the gums and teeth, to the muſcles of the lips, to the tonſills, the palate, the tongue, and the parts of the mouth, to the præcordia or diaaphragm, alſo in

ſome

ſome meaſure by inoſculating with one of its nerves; and laſtly, to the muſcles of the face, particularly the cheeks, whoſe ſanguiferous veſſels it twiſts about. Hence the great conſent and ſympathy between theſe parts. A guſtable thing ſeen or ſmelt excites the appetite, and affects the glands or parts of the mouth. A thing ſeen or heard that is ſhameful affects the cheeks with bluſhes. But on the contrary, if it pleaſes the fancy, it affects the breaſt and muſcles of the mouth and face with laughter. A thing cauſing ſadneſs and melancholy doth exert itſelf upon the præcordia, and demonſtrates itſelf by cauſing the glands of the eyes to emit tears, and the muſcles of the face to put on the ſorrowful aſpect of crying.

Hence alſo the torvous ſour look produced by anger and hatred, and that gay and pleaſing countenance accompanying love and hope.

In ſhort, it is by means of this communication of the nerves, that whatever affects us is demonſtrated (whether we will or no) by a conſentaneous diſpoſition of the breaſt within, and ſuitable configuration of the muſcles without; by which means (as Pliny ſaith) "the face of man alone is the index "of ſorrow or joy, of pity or ſeverity."

SECT.

SECT. V.

Of the Atrophia, or Nervous Conſumption.

THAT we may give ſuch a ſcheme of this whole work as will lie under a ſingle view, and open a proſpect into the deſign; in making diviſions of the ſubject, we will thereby, like Ariadne's thread, be eaſily and ſafely directed to, and proceed through all the parts of it. A conſumption in general is a waſting of the muſcular parts of the body, ariſing from a ſubſtraction or colliquation of the humours, and that either with or without a fever, and it is either original or ſymptomatical.

An original conſumption is, that which ariſes purely from a morbid diſpoſition of the blood or animal ſpirits, which reſide in the ſyſtem of the nerves and fibres, and is not the effect of any other preceding diſeaſe. Of which there are two ſorts, to wit, an atrophy, and a conſumption of the lungs. An atrophy is an univerſal conſumption ariſing from the whole habit of the body, and not from any diſtemper of the lungs, without

without any remarkable fever, and always proceeds from a morbid ſtate of the nerves. It is a conſumption which owes its original to an ill and diſeaſed ſtate of the ſpirits, and to the weakneſs or deſtruction of the tone of the nerves, from whence ariſes an imbecility, and a univerſal conſumption in the whole habit of the body from a want of a due aſſimulation of the nutricious juice. I have often obſerved patients labouring under this diſtemper to have little or no appetite, and others to eat voraciouſly, but in all a bad digeſtion in the ſtomach; ſo that the moſt ſplendid table affords little nouriſhment to the body, in conſequence of an imperfect fermentation and volatilization of the chyle *. An atrophy from inanition, or an expence of the ſeminal juice, is that which derives its original from a preternatural defect, or evacuation of that precious liquor, and that long and habitual. When this conſumption takes its riſe from a diſeaſed ſtate of the ſeminal veſſels, it may then be termed a ſymptomatical conſumption. While the malady continues in this ſtate, and a due regard be had by the practitioner to the

* Chyle—that juice which the food is converted into by digeſtion, and afterwards conveyed into the maſs of blood for the ſupport and continuance of life.

cauſe

cauſe from whence it proceeds, the patient need never deſpair of a cure, as I have hitherto had opportunities of obſerving during twenty-eight years practice. But when the diſeaſe ceaſes to be ſymptomatical by its long continuance, the conſtant ſtimulus of acrimonious humour renders the malady fixed in the conſtitution, the whole nervous ſyſtem becomes affected, and the caſe of the unfortunate ſufferer is too often loſt. I have often met with in my practice conſumptions of the lungs, accompanying a nervous atrophy; for in the progreſs of this latter diſeaſe the lungs will become more or leſs affected, ariſing from the impoveriſhed ſtate of the blood, which being deprived of its nutritious and oily juice, grows ſour and too hot, affording none or very little nouriſhment to the muſcular parts. A hectical heat will often ſucceed fixed in the whole habit: ſometimes a conſiderable cough and difficulty of breathing, with reſtleſs nights.—The cure of this kind of conſumption, as well as the former, is to be treated according to the variety of circumſtances which firſt produced it. The firſt thing to be attempted is to mend digeſtion; the ſecond, to quiet the agitation of the nerves; and the third, to diminiſh the ſharpneſs of the humours,

humours, and to facilitate the inſenſible perſpiration; the obſtruction of which cauſes the moſt inflammatory heats, which finally produce the moſt malignant diſorders of the breaſt. With regard to the firſt particular, an opportunity to aſſiſt the ſtomach appears daily, but nothing is more frequently miſtaken than the means. Various cauſes impede digeſtion, and ſometimes they are diametrically oppoſite. It is nevertheleſs, only by attacking the cauſe that we can effect a cure, when unhappily we think of nothing elſe but effect.

Some have thought that the ſtomach which cannot digeſt muſt be weak, and to re-eſtabliſh its tone it muſt be ſtrengthened; for this reaſon are not unfrequently taken multitudes of hot medicines, preparations of ſteel, aromatic opiates, bitter draughts, burning elixirs, and a variety of other drugs, equally pernicious, and only of ſervice where there is too great a relaxation in the fibres, ſtomach, and bowels—inſipidity in the bile, too much water in the fluids, ſeparated by the gaſtric and inteſtinal glands *. But very often

* I have found, from experience, that the grey nicker is the moſt powerful ſtrengthener of untoned nerves hitherto diſcovered; but it is difficult to be procured in England. It is an exotic plant, and grows ſpontaneous in South America, and moſt of the Weſt India Iſlands. The nuts of which

often the diſorders of the ſtomach depend on very oppoſite cauſes: the ſpittle and ſtomachic juices being too thick and inſufficient in quantity, the fibres ſtiff and inflamed, melancholy, languor, heating meats and drinks, bilious inflammation, and over-charged liver, more commonly occaſion bad digeſtions and diſorders of the ſtomach than the weakneſs and relaxation in that organ.

From repeated experience, I have often found that moſt of theſe conſumptions ariſe from a hot, acrimonious, dry, and inflamed principle, ſtimulating the whole nervous ſyſtem. We have been hitherto peculiarly unhappy in a miſtaken treatment of nervous diſorders, becauſe their origin had not been ſufficiently inveſtigated: their different ſpecies, which required very different remedies, were left unexamined.

which are chiefly uſed: they are ſimilar in ſhape to our acorns of the oak. I have recommended to ſome of the eminent druggiſts to import this valuable medicine, which will prove a great acquiſition to the Materia Medica.

The method of preparing and adminiſtering this remedy is as follows: Take of the bruiſed nuts, three drachms, boil them in two quarts of water to one; when cold, ſtrain the decoction, and add two ounces of the ſyrup of orange peel. Let a wine glaſs be taken three or four times a day at medicinal hours. It is alſo given in powder from ſix to fifteen grains for a doſe: and alſo in extract from five to ten grains, according to the circumſtances of the patient's caſe. The columbe root, in many caſes, has alſo been found to do great ſervice.

This

This branch of phyſic has been long confined to hypotheſis, the ſubject of party diſputes, or at leaſt influenced by faſhion.

Many eminent phyſicians have regarded all diſorders of the nerves as the conſequences of relaxed fibres, and weak digeſtions, and would effect a cure by means of remedies, which are hot and bracing. In attributing all nervous complaints to one cause, they have propoſed but one kind of remedy, under the name of tonics, which unhappily too often fails of ſucceſs.—But thoſe remedies, ſo hurtful in theſe caſes, are very beneficial, where a weak fibre or poor and watery blood are the true cauſes of the complaint, which the patient may labour under, and ſuch caſes often do occur. An urinary irregularity is in general the firſt ſymptom of diſeaſed nerves, and the greateſt attention ſhould be paid by the patient and phyſician to this diſcharge. I have ſeen the moſt dreadful caſes, which have all grown worſe; the cauſe of which being in the beginning not underſtood, and improperly treated by practitioners. To thoſe whoſe nerves are diſordered, all impreſſions being too ſtrong, violent remedies muſt be terrible indeed, and

ſuch miſtakes are too common; for nothing has occurred to me more frequently, than to ſee patients afflicted with every diſorder of this ſpecies, becauſe at firſt it had been attributed to a diſordered ſtomach, thoſe ſymptoms of uneaſineſs, ſtoppages and oppreſſions in the ſtomach, bad appetite, flatulency, eructations, ſallow aſpect, which were the firſt effects of thoſe irregular motions of the nerves of the ſtomach and inteſtines; and there is certainly no phyſician who has any employment, but muſt have been conſulted more than once, by patients whoſe only diſorder was nervous; nevertheleſs which had been treated under the idea of ſome other diſtemper, to the great detriment of the ſufferer. All ſuch errors are unhappy for the afflicted. I have often been conſulted by people, whoſe caſes had been miſtaken for venereal complaints, &c. and had undergone a mercurial courſe, although they had not a ſingle ſymptom characteriſtic of the imputed diſeaſe. It is not therefore at all amazing, that diſorders of the nerves ſhould be very common and permanent, and that the alteratives of well and ill, and ill and well, ſhould ſo frequently happen; that the patient need have a great deal

deal of courage, and the phyſician a great deal of experience, before a cure can be performed.

SECT. VI.

Of a Phthiſis or Conſumption in general.

WE have hitherto taken a ſhort view of the fabric of the Nervous Syſtem, and endeavoured to ſhew the wonderful ſympathy between every branch thereof. We will, in this chapter, make a few obſervations on the baneful effects that theſe wonderful chords have, when they are diſeaſed, upon the pneumonic function or action of the lungs. Of all the diſeaſes of the breaſt, a Phthiſis or Conſumption by right claims the firſt place; for there is none more frequent or difficult to cure. By this malady both inſpiration and expiration are hurt and perverted; and like leſſer ſtreams impregnated with contagion running into a great lake, corrupt the whole maſs, and end in a

phthiſis, loſing both their natures and ancient names. The terms of phthiſis and tabes, in their proper ſignification denote an atrophy, or a withering away of the ſolid parts, with debility of ſtrength. Theſe diſtempers frequently proceed from ulcers ſeated in ſome of the internal functions, and ſometimes the lungs themſelves become ulcerated. But the greateſt number of caſes I have met with in the courſe of my practice, have taken their riſe from the mere fault of the fluids, and chiefly from the nervous juice. This diſeaſe in general is accompanied with an obſtinate cough, which is moſt diſtreſſing during the night ſeaſon, ſometimes dry, but oftener moiſt, and ſometimes attended with an inclination to vomit, oppreſſion of the cheſt, and difficulty of breathing when the patient walks or ſtirs briſkly; by an habitual fever increaſing always after eating, with a fluſhing and circumſcribed redneſs of the cheeks, while the reſt of the face is pale, thin, and looks as if it were not clean waſhed: the pulſe is always frequent, but at night becomes hard, and exceedingly quick, whence great heat of a peculiar kind, and dryneſs of the ſkin, particularly in the palms of the hands and ſoles of the feet, with thirſt and inability to

ſleep:

ſleep: toward morning a ſweat ſometimes breaks out, and procures a remiſſion of the febrile ſymptoms; when a looſeneſs ſupervenes the ſpitting leſſons, and the mucus or purulent matter appears to be carried downwards, the fleſh waſtes away, the eyes ſink in their ſockets, the legs ſometimes ſwell, the nails curve inwards, the hair ſometimes falls off, and death ſteals on without being perceived by the exhauſted patient, who continues ſenſible to the laſt hour, and ſometimes even then entertains the falſe hope of prolonging a miſerable life. The phthiſis is a frequent diſeaſe in moſt parts of the Britiſh islands: it is alſo very often hereditary, the ſeeds of the diſeaſe or morbific diſpoſition of body being tranſmitted from parents to their offspring.

The ſigns which ſhew this diſpoſition are a weak and ſhrill voice, apt to become hoarſe on very ſlight occaſions, remarkable proneneſs to a cough, and hawking up of phlegm in the mornings, a circumſcribed florid redneſs in the cheeks, ſometimes bleeding from the noſe, a pulſe eaſily flurried, and breathing eaſily diſturbed. People ſo circumſtanced, as to ſhew all or moſt of theſe ſigns, if very particular attention be not paid to the preſervation of their health,

will fall into a pulmonary conſumption. Great temperance and care, and living in a pure atmoſphere, diſtant from the ſmoak of large towns ſhould be carefully attended.

The Phthiſis is to be conſidered (as we have before obſerved on the atrophia) either as primary or ſecondary, coming on in conſequence of ſome preceding diſeaſe.

In what is termed the Dry Phthiſis, wherein the cough, though exceedingly diſtreſſing, is not followed by any expectoration, either of coloured mucus or purulent matter, what the patient ſpits up, until near the cloſe, is only a white frothy phlegm, and that but in ſmall quantities. Diſſections ſhew, that in theſe caſes the mucus and lymphatic glands, which are diſperſed in great numbers throughout the whole ſubſtance of the lungs, are enlarged and hardened, either forming earthy concretions, or running into cluſters which do not ſuppurate kindly, but remain in a ſchirous ſtate, livid or dark coloured, and when cut, into a thick and purulent mucus, and coagulated blood ouzes forth. The way to diſtinguiſh this from a common cough, or from a dyſpnœa, is by attending to the waſting night ſweats and febrile ſymptoms already deſcribed. This dry phthiſis comes

on

on by ſuch ſlow and imperceptible degrees, and the glands are ſtuffed up ſo gradually, that the unfortunate ſufferer ſeldom applies early enough to be compleatly cured, becauſe the means cannot be applied too ſoon to obviate the danger. In the beginning of the diſeaſe, before the ſchirous tubercles are actually formed in the lungs, ſome patients may find advantage from courſes of goat's whey, with deobſtruent medicines, ſuch as the gum ammoniac combined with ſoap, and the martial flowers, others will receive benefit from Seltzer water, or from the ſulphureous ſprings, ſuch as Harrowgate, Moffat, or Swadlinbar; and if along with theſe courſes they uſe the exerciſe of riding, and all the while have a ſtrict regard to temperance, there will be a probability of preventing the thickening and ſtagnation of lymph in the glands of the lungs: but as I have ſaid above, theſe remedies, &c. are ſcarcely ever applied ſo ſoon as to prevent the formation of the diſeaſe, we are obliged to have recourſe to them afterwards to prolong life, or palliate the complaints.

Seatons or iſſues in this ſort of conſumption will be found of uſe, as they tend to obviate the ill effects of any degrees of plethora that may occaſionally happen to take

place in the conſtitution, and for the ſame reaſon bleeding will ſometimes be required to free the breathing, and procure relief from ſtitches that are apt to torment the patients.

There is another ſpecies of the phthiſis, wherein the cough is accompanied with a remarkable expectoration, at firſt without ſmell, and uncoloured viſcid mucus; but as the diſeaſe advances the ſpits become fœtid, yellowiſh, grey, or of a greeniſh caſt, have ſometimes a ſweetiſh taſte, and ſometimes that of common ſalt. This kind of conſumption appears to proceed from a perverted ſecretion, too much lymph and mucus being thrown on the glands of the lungs, which in time come to be ſoftened and melted down, that the entire ſubſtance of them, when they are inſpected after the patient's death, has both the look and the feel of ſoft dough, without much appearance of organic texture; hence the cure muſt conſiſt in reſtoring order to the ſecretion in general, and in ſtrengthening the whole corporeal frame. For theſe purpoſes, the Peruvian bark, combined with ſtrengthening gums or balſams, ſometimes aided by the acid elixir of vitriol, chalybeate waters, and the other requiſites of pure air, moderate exerciſe, and cheerful company,

company, will be found the beſt remedies. Theſe caſes, when they ariſe from purulent matter, abſorbed from any of the internal functions, if taken in time, may be compleatly cured, and even when the diſeaſe has made conſiderable advances, and has abſolutely formed itſelf, life may be preſerved for many years. Gentle emetics are ſometimes remarkably uſeful, not only to ſhake off the load of viſcid mucus, and promote freedom of expectoration, but alſo as a kind of exerciſe to ſtrengthen the lungs; for the ſame reaſons, ſailing will be found to contribute greatly to the cure, or at leaſt mitigation of the diſeaſe.

It ſometimes happens in all the varieties of conſumptions to ſee the ſpits now and then ſtreaked with blood; but there are ſome caſes wherein hæmorrhages from the veſſels of the lungs are ſo large and ſo frequent, as to give a diſtinguiſhing character to the diſeaſe.

Theſe frequent ſpittings of blood imply great weakneſs of the pulmonary veſſels, and great acrimony of the juices. The Peruvian bark, therefore, and the Briſtol or Mallow waters, with occaſional bleedings, and opiates interpoſed, according as the returns of the hœmoptoe may demand, will be found

found in many cafes to do infinite ſervice. There is no variety of the Phthiſis that requires the living in a pure and ſettled atmoſphere ſo much as this, nor any wherein temperance of every kind is to be ſo ſtudiouſly obſerved.

PART

PART IV.

SECT I.

Semeiology or Signs of Diſeaſes.

THAT part of phyſic which is termed Semeiology, or the doctrine of ſigns, explaining the methods whereby we are enabled to form a judgment of the nature and preſent ſtate of a diſeaſe, deſerves to be ranked as a moſt uſeful branch of the healing art. It is not an uncommon thing in the medical authors, to ſee ſigns that are purely ſuch confounded with the ſymptoms which make a part of the diſeaſe.

For though all the ſymptoms are ſigns, yet all ſigns are not ſymptoms; as for inſtance, a quick pulſe, and high coloured urine, are ſigns of a fever, provided the perſon who has ſuch a pulſe, or makes ſuch urine,

urine, is at the ſame time affected with the ſymptoms of exceſſive heat, thirſt, loſs of appetite, weakneſs, and reſtleſſneſs; if he has not all or moſt of theſe ſymptoms, then the quick pulſe and high coloured urine infer nothing; becauſe it often happens that theſe ſhall occur without being attended with any one ſpecies of inability or diſtreſs. As the ſymptoms are the component parts of the diſeaſe, they muſt of courſe be the true ſigns; ſo that we only feel the pulſe, and inſpect the urine in aid of theſe ſigns; for if the urine and pulſe be conſidered without reference to the ſymptoms, they can never enable us to form any judgment concerning either the nature or actual ſtate of a diſeaſe; as for example, we are told that a perſon is afflicted with a ſharp and fixed pain in the ſide, increaſing upon inſpiration, and accompanied with a teazing cough, exceſſive heat, thirſt, and reſtleſſneſs: now we know that this combination of ſymptoms forms the diſeaſe called a pleuriſy, and therefore will not heſitate to pronounce that this is the ſpecies which the ſick perſon labours under; but if we are only told that the pulſe is quick and full, or that the urine is high coloured, then we cannot tell with any degree of certainty whether there be a

diſeaſe,

diſeaſe, or whether the perſon has overheated himſelf with violent exerciſe. We are again told that another perſon labours under great debility, with flying pains about his back and loins, with nocturnal emiſſions, and the ſemen ſometimes running off involuntarily; if on examination of the ducts, which conveys that fluid into the urethra, there ſhould be found any purulent matter, we may then conclude that the patient is afflicted with a tabes dorſalis, which diſorders his whole frame.

Signs are diſtinguiſhed as being either diagnoſtic, prognoſtic, or anamneſtic.

Diagnoſtic ſigns aſſure us of the preſent ſtate of a diſeaſe, and ſerve to define or diſtinguiſh it. Thus exceſſive heat, ſevere pain in the head, great thirſt and reſtleſsneſs, with a dry ſkin, an extremely frequent, full, and hard pulſe, and high coloured urine, are the diagnoſtic ſigns of that ſpecies of fever which is termed inflammatory.

Prognoſtic ſigns are thoſe which enable us to foretel the changes that will happen during the courſe of the diſeaſe. Thus, if a perſon labouring under an inflammatory fever, complains that the pain of the head is become extremely violent, with a buzzing in the

the ears, a redneſs and fierce look in the eyes, and the urine changes to a watery paleneſs, we may ſafely venture to prognoſticate that a delirium will ſhortly ſupervene.

Anamneſtic ſigns are thoſe which enable us to tell what diſeaſe the party is juſt emerged from; for inſtance, a ſcurfy dryneſs of the ſkin, with ſore eyes, a troubleſome dry cough, and weakneſs, ſhew the perſon ſo affected has lately had the meaſles. It is ſufficiently obvious, however, that theſe anamneſtic ſigns are not of much importance, even if they were more to be depended on than they really are; the knowledge of the diagnoſtic and of the prognoſtic is what we are principally to cultivate.

The ſymptoms then are, the true and genuine diagnoſtic ſigns of diſeaſes; but many of theſe ſymptoms are ſuch as can neither be ſeen nor felt by the afflicted; and this, unfortunately, too often happens in the tabes dorſalis. I have known inſtances of patients where many years had elapſed before the cauſe of their diſorder was diſcovered. A true knowledge of diſeaſes muſt come by practice and experience.

Induction, and the information given by the patient, eſpecially in perſonal conſultations, is the ſureſt and ſafeſt guide to direct the

the proper remedies for the reſtoration of health. But it very often happens that patients conſult me by letter, at great diſtances in the kingdom, and many are incapable of diſtinctly relating the complaints under which they labour. Hence it is I have often felt much concern, leſt from the want of a thorough knowledge of the cauſe of the diſeaſe (which an interview would give) I ſhould fail to render permanent relief.

SECT. II.

Signs derived from the Pulſe.

It has hitherto been generally ſaid, and believed, that the very ancient phyſicians availed themſelves but little of the obſervations which may be made of the Pulſe, and that there is only ſlight mention of it in the writings of Hippocrates; but Profeſſor De Haen, of Vienna, who worſhipped the parent of phyſic, deems it injurious to the honour

nour of Hippocrates, that he ſhould not be allowed to know as much concerning the Pulſe as any of thoſe who have come after him. He has quoted above forty different paſſages, wherein mention is made of pulſes and pulſations*.

Aretæus, indeed, from the extracts given by De Haen, appears to have attended a good deal to the changes of the Pulſe; but whatever omiſſions, with regard to this matter, may be chargeable on Hippocrates, are amply made up by the luxuriant fancy of his commentator Galen, who has formed an extravagant number of diſtinctions, moſt of which do not occur in practice, or, if they did, they could not be known from the deſcriptions which are given: much the ſame thing may be ſaid with regard to the doctrines of ſome modern writers, who have perſuaded themſelves that there are peculiarities of the Pulſe from which one may foretell many things with reſpect to the progreſs and event of a diſeaſe. Theſe peculiarities which can only be obſerved by a very attentive head, and a very nice touch, are not to be learnt from books; and if there be ſuch pulſes as Solano, Bordeau, and their followers have told of, thoſe who are

* Vid. Ratio Medendi. Part 12. Chap 1.

deſirous

deſirous of learning how to diſtinguiſh them, muſt attend to the practice of theſe gentlemen, and be taught at the patient's bedſide how to know the variations from the ſtates of the pulſe, which are obſerved by common practitioners.

Before we draw any concluſions from the ſtate of the pulſe, we are always to conſider that the healthy rate is relative to the particular circumſtances of age, ſex, and conſtitution:—in the firſt place, therefore, we ſhould, if poſſible, find out what the healthy rate is, as that muſt be the ſtandard whereby to judge of the degree of morbid deviation.

We are alſo to conſider that the vaſcular ſyſtem * is but a part of the animal machine, and though, from the pulſe, we may infer there is no diſorder in reſpect of the general circulation, becauſe we find the motions to be moderate, equable, and free; yet that does not aſſure us that every thing is well on the part of the nerves, becauſe there may be very much diſturbance there, while little or none ſhall be perceived from the pulſe. All perſons who practice phyſic ſhould make themſelves well acquainted with the degrees of ſtrength and general rates of the pulſe, as felt in infants, adults, and aged men, and

* Vaſcular ſyſtem—the blood veſſels in general.

in women, while in perfect health, for all theſe have their own peculiar healthy rate.

During perfect health the Pulſe will be found equable, moderate, and free, whereas in the morbid or diſeaſed ſtate we ſhall ſometimes find it unequal and intermitting; the time between the ſtrokes, as well as the force of the ſtrokes, every now and then varying; ſometimes it will ſtop entirely, ſometimes it will be found immoderately quick, and ſometimes unnaturally ſlow, ſometimes it will be raiſed greatly above the healthy degree of ſtrength, and ſometimes ſunk as much below it.

The inferences to be drawn from theſe different ſtates of the Pulſe are, in general, the following:

From the unequal or intermittent Pulſe, we are to infer that there is great diſorder in the nervous ſyſtem, and conſequently muſt look on this kind of Pulſe as an alarming ſign, and one that ought always to put us on our guard, and prepare to expect the the very worſt that can happen. The degree of danger ſhould be eſtimated, however, from the circumſtances that have preceded, or which may attend this uneven or intermittent Pulſe; for if it comes at the cloſe of a diſeaſe, when the ſtrength is much exhauſted,

hauſted, or after long evacuations of any ſort, eſpecially the tabes dorſalis, we may look on it as a deſperate ſign; but if it happens only after ſome ſudden guſt of paſſion, or is in any degree habitual (as hath ſometimes been obſerved) then we need not be ſo much alarmed.

A ſtoppage of the Pulſe muſt always be deemed very alarming, if it continues any time, or if it ſucceeds profuſe hœmorrhages, or other diſcharges: if there be any circulation of blood while the Pulſe ceaſes to be felt, it muſt be owing to the ſimple dilitation and contraction of the heart, without any conſiderable degree of ſubſultory motion.

Some writers diſtinguiſh between a quick and a frequent Pulſe; by a frequent Pulſe they mean, that there is an unuſual number of ſtrokes in a given ſpace of time, and by a quick Pulſe they underſtand that the ſtroke is made with remarkable ſmartneſs, in the ſmalleſt portion of time that can be conceived: the epithet hard ſeems rather to expreſs this matter better than quick; and therefore we ſhall apply it to ſignify that ſtroke of the Pulſe which is made in ſuch a ſmart way, and is accompanied with ſuch tenſion in the coats of the artery, that it

gives the idea of ſomewhat hard lying under the finger.

From the pulſe that is immoderately quick or frequent, we may infer that there is an unuſual irritation kept up in the vaſcular ſyſtem, either from acrimonious matters contained in the blood, which ſtimulate the heart and the arteries, in the ſame manner as acrid matter about the mouths of the ſeminal veſſels ſtimulates the nervous ſyſtem; or it may ariſe from the ventricles of the heart not being able to empty themſelves completely, whence they are kept in a conſtant ſtate of irritation: Beſides, the ventricles may want power for enabling them to contract ſufficiently, or the extremities of the arterial ſyſtem may be ſo conſtricted or cloſed up, that the blood is too much accumulated about the centre, or it may be returned from the circumference faſter than it ought to be, and in greater quantities than the heart can well receive it, as always happens after violent or unuſual bodily exerciſe: hence we may underſtand the reaſon why all profuſe evacuations quicken the Pulſe; for in people who die in conſequence of ſuch, the Pulſe, as death draws near, becomes exceedingly frequent, becauſe the muſcular force of the heart is now ſo greatly

weakened,

weakened, that the ventricles can never ſufficiently clear themſelves, as alſo why every thing that cauſes ſpaſmodic conſtriction muſt quicken the Pulſe; and thus we ſee, that a quick Pulſe muſt be inſeparable from a fever, ſo long as the arteries at the circumference are in any conſiderable degree conſtricted or ſtraitened.

A frequent or quick Pulſe, conſidered merely as ſuch, does not imply that the circulating force of the blood is increaſed, or that any given quantity of it moves through a greater ſpace of the containing veſſels in a given time, than it did before the Pulſe became more frequent than it ought to be in the natural ſtate.

The circulating force of the blood is to be eſtimated by multiplying the ſtrength of the Pulſe into the number of ſtrokes in a given time. For the ſake of illuſtration let us eſtimate the ſtrength of the Pulſe in the time of perfect health as equal to four, while the number of ſtrokes in a minute are 70; 70, multiplied by 4, gives 280; 280 then, we ſhall ſay, is the circulating force in the time of perfect health.

Now, let us ſuppoſe an inflammatory fever to ariſe, and that the ſtrength of the Pulſe is increaſed to 5, while the number of

ſtrokes in a minute is increaſed to 112: theſe two numbers being multiplied into each other produce 560, which is double what the circulating force was during the natural and healthy ſtate.

But let us ſuppoſe the number of pulſes in a minute to be ſtill 112, and the ſtrength of the ſtroke to be reduced one half below the healthy ſtandard; that is, we ſhall reckon only 2 inſtead of 4, then the product will only be 224, which is greatly below the healthy rate. Thus we ſee, that notwithſtanding the Pulſe is ſo much more frequent, yet the maſs of blood does not circulate with ſuch freedom and velocity, as it did while the heart contracted itſelf only 70 times in a minute, inſtead of 112.

When we find the Pulſe unnaturally ſlow, we infer that the heart and arterial ſyſtem are leſs irritable than they ought to be, which may happen from a want of proper ſupply of ſubtle nervous fluid to enliven the fibres, as ſeems to be the caſe when the veſſels or ventricles of the brain are ſurcharged with blood or ſerum, or when it is preſſed upon by the ſkull beat in or fractured: the irritability of the heart may alſo be leſſened, and the power of its fibres weakened, from an accumulation of oily, gelatinous, or watery

tery fluid in the cellular interſtices, as happens in the caſes of over corpulent or hydropic habits, or from the too great acceſſion of inert ſolid matter, which ſeems to be the caſe of people advanced in life, in whom the living ſolids are obſtructed in their motions by the gradual increaſe of inert ſolids.

As mere quickneſs or frequency of Pulſe does not imply that the circulating force of the blood is increaſed, neither does mere ſlowneſs prove that it is diminiſhed; ſo that we are to form our judgment here on the ſame principle as we did with reſpect to the other: as for inſtance, if the Pulſe of a perſon who is juſt recovering from a fever ſhall become ſo ſlow as to beat only 56 times in a minute, while the ſtrength of each ſtroke or impulſe ſhall continue ſo great as to be eſtimated at 5, then we ſee by the product, which is 280, that the circulating force is preciſely the ſame with what it was in the time of perfect health, when we eſtimated the ſtrength at 4, and the number of pulſes at 70.

Hence we may underſtand the reaſon why a ſtrong and a ſlow Pulſe, provided it be equable, is ſuch a good ſign, when it ſucceeds that which has been weak and frequent; and why we look on ſuch a Pulſe as

a ſure ſign that the criſis of a fever has been complete, and that perfect equability and freedom are again reſtored to the circulation throughout every part of the vaſcular ſyſtem.

A ſtrong Pulſe ſhews, that the influx of nervous fluid to the heart is perfectly free, and that the fibres of this muſcle, and the arterial ſyſtem in general, are firm and entire, while the blood which the veſſels contain will be found remarkably denſe, and rich in the colouring part; on the contrary, a weak Pulſe muſt denote want of power in the heart and vaſcular ſyſtem in general, ariſing from a relaxed and flabby ſtate of the ſolids, joined to a poor, thin, and watery ſtate of the blood.

The hardneſs of the Pulſe, which is peculiar to ſome diſeaſes, particularly inflammations of the membranous parts, which are accompanied with ſevere pain, is ſuppoſed to ariſe from an unuſual degree of tenſion communicated to the motory fibres in general; extreme ſoftneſs, on the contrary, muſt be aſcribed to the oppoſite ſtate of the living fibres, and muſt be conſidered only as a variation from the weak Pulſe.

From reviewing what has been ſaid concerning the ſeveral ſtates of the Pulſe, as conſidered ſeparately, we may eaſily infer

what

what follows from their ſeveral combinations; thus a quick, hard, and ſtrong Pulſe plainly denotes that the heart and arterial ſyſtem are greatly irritated; that there is much tenſion of the motory fibres in general, and that the veſſels are full of blood, which is uſually denſe, and ſtored with red particles.

Thus much may ſuffice concerning the Pulſe, with reſpect to the morbid ſtate of the human body in general; but in particular ſpecies of diſeaſes, it is impoſſible to convey a proper idea on paper of the various minutiæ as it is found to be affected in different caſes.

SECT. III.

Signs derived from Reſpiration.

AS the whole maſs of circulating fluids muſt neceſſarily paſs through the lungs in its progreſs from the one ventricle of the heart

heart to the other, we may readily comprehend that the ſigns derived from the Pulſe ſhould be confirmed by thoſe which are taken from Reſpiration.

While people enjoy perfect health, Reſpiration is carried on, ſo as to give eaſe and refreſhment, and with ſuch a gentle motion of the different parts concerned, that the riſing and falling of the ribs is ſcarcely to be perceived; the cavity of the cheſt being alternately enlarged and diminiſhed, chiefly by the alternate relaxation and contraction of the diaphragm and muſcles of the abdomen. But in ſome diſeaſes we often obſerve the Reſpiration to be much diſturbed and interrupted, being performed with pain, ſome caſes with great langour and ſighing, and others difficulty, quickneſs, a perceivable noiſe, and an evident motion of the ribs. All theſe different deviations from the healthy ſtandard, are to be uſed as ſigns, to enable us to judge concerning the degrees of diſturbance and interruption in regard to the circulation of the fluids, for the Lungs may be looked upon as an epitome of the whole body, with reſpect to its vaſcular compoſition, this wonderful viſcus having ſo many ſeries of veſſels; and, therefore, the blood which flows freely through the veſſels

of

of the Lungs, may be ſuppoſed capable of making an eaſy circuit through the remainder of the ſanguiferous canals.

In health, it is generally obſerved, that we draw our breath only once, while the heart contracts itſelf four times; hence we may infer, from a Reſpiration which is quicker than uſual, that the blood is ſent out from the heart into the arteries of the Lungs in great abundance, owing, ſometimes, to its being returned from the circumference to the center in unuſual quantities, as is the caſe after violent bodily exerciſe, and in ſome particular paſſions of the mind: hence it is that ſpaſmodic conſtriction always quickens the Reſpiration, which will alſo happen when the circulation through the Lungs is any how interrupted; for if the Lungs cannot afford a paſſage to the uſual quantity of blood from one dilitation, this defect muſt be made amends for by the repetition: hence we ſee that a quick Reſpiration may be held as a ſign of infarcted Lungs, and theſe infarctions, as hath been already mentioned, Part III. Sect. V. may be of various natures. The Reſpiration, alſo, will be quickened, if the muſcles concerned in this action (eſpecially the diaphragm) be agitated with any degree of ſpaſm: and this is a caſe that often

often happens in hyſteric patients, and in nervous diſeaſes, and ſometimes from flatus or wind, or from other offenſive matters pent up in the ſtomach or inteſtines; and not unfrequent in infants, from a load of coagulated milk or other ſtimulating or oppreſſive materials.

A laborious difficult Reſpiration, wherein the breathing is unnaturally quick, the thorax not being ſufficiently enlarged as to its capacity, is a ſign that the paſſage through the blood veſſels of the lungs are interrupted, either by a ſpaſmodic ſtricture of theſe veſſels, or (if the notion of lentor be admitted) from a too great tenacity of the blood, which cannot eaſily make its way through the minute extremities of the pulmonary artery; or difficult breathing may denote that there is an accumulation of watery, oily, or perhaps earthy matter in the cellular part of the lungs, whereby the air veſſels, as well as the blood veſſels, are compreſſed, and the one ſet hindered from being ſufficienty diſtended with the air, while the others are ſtraitened in their diameters: hence the paſſage of the circulating fluids muſt be interrupted in proportion to the quantity of matter ſo accumulated.

Reſpiration,

Reſpiration, attended with a fixed internal pain, which is very acute and diſtreſſing, is a ſign that the membranous covering of the lungs, and the membranes which line the thorax, are in a ſtate of inflammation, the veſſels ſpread over theſe parts, being over diſtended, and nearly ruptured, by the load of fluids which are forced into them; if a laborious and very difficult reſpiration be attended with a dull, deep ſeated pain, and quick, but weak pulſe, it ſhews the ſubſtance of the lungs to be inflamed.

But if the pain which attends difficult Reſpiration be in the fleſhy and external parts of the cheſt, and is not fixed, but flies like a cramp from place to place, the pulſe at the ſame time being little diſturbed, it is a ſign that there is ſome ſpaſmodic affection, which will probably be relieved by an opiate, or if rheumatic acrimony, it will give way to the application of a bliſter.

A quick and difficult Reſpiration, with a ſobbing or rattling in the fauces, if it ſucceeds other bad ſigns, ſuch as frequent and very weak pulſe, cold ſweats, inſenſibility, or total loſs of ſtrength, may be looked on as a ſign of approaching death.

As difficulty and diſturbance in the action of Reſpiration may be brought on by a great

great variety of cauſes, many of which, in themſelves, have but little diſtreſs or danger, we can never infer any thing with certainty from the ſigns of Reſpiration alone, but muſt always take into the account the other circumſtances and ſymptoms attending the patient, and by laying the whole together draw the proper concluſions; for inſtance, we ſhall often ſee perſons of a very delicate habit, endowed with much ſenſibility, fall ſometimes into very great diſtreſs in regard to the action of Reſpiration, from cauſes that affect only the muſcles concerned in this action, and which do not much interrupt or diſturb the paſſage of the blood through the lungs; conſequently, though very alarming at firſt ſight, it is not to be held as a ſign of much danger; for while the paſſage through the pulmonary veſſels keeps tolerably free (and this may be always known from the pulſe), we are not to look on difficult Reſpiration as a ſign of approaching death; but if a ſuffocating or exceedingly difficult Reſpiration ſhould come on, when we are convinced from other circumſtances that the lungs are in a ſtate of inflammation, or are ſtuffed up and incumbered with watery, mucous, oily, ſanguineous, or purulent matter, then we are to eſteem

eſteem it as a very bad ſign, and prepare for the worſt; hence the great difference of the caſes ariſing from infarcted or incumbered lungs, and thoſe wherein it is owing to affections of the lungs beſtowed on the muſcles of reſpiration.

As there are accidental or conſtitutional peculiarities of pulſe, which ſhould always be attended to, in like manner we are ſtill to conſider that Reſpiration is liable to vary much in different people, according to the different formation of the cheſt, and the particular ſtate of the lungs; to which we muſt add the different effects that may be expected from changes of weather, and from the differences of climate and ſituation.

SECT IV.

Signs which denote Diſorder in the Nervous Syſtem.

IT is well known, from a multitude of obſervations and experiments on living animals, that ſenſation, perception, and voluntary

tary motion, all depend on a ſound ſtate of the Nerves; therefore, when at any time we find the different external ſenſes, the faculties of the mind, or the powers of the muſcular fibres impaired, diſordered, or ſuſpended, we may be then certain that all is not right with reſpect to the Nervous Syſtem; and by comparing the various morbid deviations with the ſtates of perception, ſenſation, and voluntary motion, as they ought to be in a healthy ſubject, we may be enabled to form ſome notion of the ſeveral degrees of morbid diſtreſs and danger.

As for inſtance, a perſon in a fever is very delirious, and unable to ſleep; the actual cauſe of theſe two ſymptoms, we preſume to be a too plentiful diſtribution of the nervous fluid to the organs of ſenſe, both internal and external; therefore, on obſerving theſe two ſymptoms, we infer that the increaſed force of the circulating fluids which conſtitutes the fever, has alſo produced an increaſed ſecretion of nervous fluid, and that this ſubtle matter is now ſent into the Nerves in a too great proportion. Hence alſo, we conclude, if theſe two ſymptoms continue to rage with violence,

lence, that the ſick perſon's life muſt be in very great danger, becauſe of the extraordinary waſte of this enlivening fluid, without a due ſhare of which the animal motions cannot poſſibly be carried on.

But if the ſame perſon, in the courſe of this fever, becomes ſtupid, and ſinks into a conſtant dozing, then we are to infer that the Nerves are not ſufficiently ſupplied, and that their motions are become remiſs, by reaſon of the blood veſſels of the brain being over diſtended, or perhaps ruptured, from the continuance of the violent and rapid motion of the circulating fluids: and hence again we prognoſticate the dangerous ſituation of the patient, from the appearance of theſe two acceſſory ſymptoms.

On the ſame principle we always infer great danger from ſpaſms, when joined with diſorder of the vaſcular ſyſtem, or from extreme weakneſs of body, or dejection of ſpirit, than which there cannot be more alarming ſigns, when they appear in any ſpecies of febrile diſeaſe.

We alſo know by experience, that the Nerves are equally liable to be affected at their origin in the brain, and by offenſive matters acting on the places where peculiar branches of theſe wonderful cords termi-

nate; for inſtance, if the mouths of the ſeminal ducts which convey the ſemen into the urinary paſſage are ſtimulated with purulent and corrupted matter, it will communicate, by ſome inexplicable ſympathy, diſtreſs and diſturbance to the whole frame.

Sometimes all theſe diſturbances will ariſe from acrid and offenſive matters, pent up in the alimentary canal: the general ſyſtem of ſolids, and the common maſs of fluids being not in fault, it will be of great utility to obſerve the ſigns that ſhew the preſence and nature of theſe noxious matters, and which point out the moſt proper ways and times for correcting or expelling them. The ſigns that indicate in general a load of offenſive matter in the ſtomach or flexure of the duodenum, which may and ought to be evacuated, are chiefly theſe: foulneſs of the tongue, when it is beſet with ſordes and thick ſloughs; a bitter, ſour, rancid, or putrid taſte in the mouth; nauſea and loſs of appetite; pain in the left orifice and upper part of the ſtomach; weight and oppreſſion about the præcordia, with fullneſs and a ſoft ſwelling of the hypochondria; heavineſs, giddineſs, and pain in the head, ſhivering and coldneſs of the extremities, with a general laſſitude and loſs of ſtrength.

But

But when the load of offenſive matter is lower down, there is generally then a diſtention, pain, and rumbling noiſe of the belly; fœtid, ſharp, and griping ſtools; pain in the loins, and extended down the thighs, together with weakneſs, and a heavy, dull kind of pain about the knees.

The general ſtate of the Nervous Syſtem may be alſo judged of, in ſome meaſure, by the look of the eyes, and from the general appearance of the whole countenance; the more theſe appearances deviate from the peculiar and healthy look, ſo much the more alarming.

Practitioners, who are much converſant among patients labouring under theſe diſeaſes, imperceptibly acquire a knowledge of thoſe ſigns, which are derived from obſerving the eyes, from the general caſt of features, and the ſtate of the ſeminal functions; but there is no ſuch thing as communicating this knowledge in any other way, than by pointing out the appearances as they actually preſent themſelves in the patient.

SECT. V.

Signs derived from the Urine.

AS the health of the human body depends greatly on the due and regular ſeparation and expulſion of excrementitious matters, ſo the examination and inſpection of theſe, both with regard to their quality and quantity, is of equal ſervice in leading us to form juſt notions of the ſtate of the body, with the obſervation of the pulſe or inſpection of the ſtate of the ſeminal ducts in patients labouring under that diſeaſe, which makes the chief ſubject of this work.

The Urine (being an excrementitious humour that is eaſily examined, and which frequently ſhews by its changes the ſtate of the animal motions, as well as the condition of the fluids) has very much engaged the attention of profeſſional men in the healing art, from the earlieſt antiquity.

Before we pretend to judge of the appearances in the Urine of people labouring under diſeaſes, we ought to know what its

ſtate

ſtate is in perſons who enjoy perfect health; and here again there is a conſiderable latitude, as the Urine will appear differently, according to the time of life, and according to the manner in which people feed or exerciſe themſelves. The Urine of infants is mild and colourleſs in compariſon with that of an aged perſon, where the ſaline, oily, and earthy principles abound ſo much as to give the Urine an high colour, ſtrong ſmell, and conſiderable ſharpneſs. The ſame in general may be ſaid of the Urine of ſedentary perſons, who uſe little or no bodily exerciſe, and that of one who labours hard every day. The more the body is exerciſed the more highly impregnated is the Urine with the ſaline, oily, or earthy particles of the blood.

The appearances of the Urine likewiſe depend much on the quantities and qualities of drink which people accuſtom themſelves to. Such as pour down great quantities of liquids muſt make a great deal of thin and pale Urine, not much ſaturated with the oily, earthy, or ſaline particles; the contrary will happen to ſuch as drink but little.

The colour of healthy Urine in general may be likened to that of Rheniſh or Liſbon wine, limpid throughout, and without

ſediment; for ſediment in Urine implies, that the different principles of the blood are either unequally proportioned, or not ſufficiently mixed and blended together, and conſequently ſhews ſome defect or deviation from the natural and ſound ſtate.

Urine, which is limpid, watery, and in great abundance, ſhews that the cutaneous * diſcharge is preternaturally diminiſhed, and is always an attendant on hyſteric or hypochondriac paroxiſms, where there is a ſenſation of extreme cold, oppreſſion, and frequently ſevere pain in ſome particular part, moſt commonly the head or loins.

Urine of this ſort is frequently obſerved in nervous diſeaſes, and in the tabes dorſalis, and is to be held as a bad ſign, ſince it ſhews that the ſpaſmodic ſtricture of the ſmalleſt arteries are very great: whence we may infer that the caſe is of a ſerious nature, and requires great attention.

Pale, thin, and limpid Urine, in perſons where there is no diſturbance or diſorder of either vaſcular or nervous ſyſtem, ſhews the blood to be poor and watery; it denotes that the body wants ſufficient exerciſe, and that the ſolids in general are in a weak and relaxed ſtate.

* The inſenſible perſpiration.

Pale

Pale and turbid Urine ſhews the bad ſtate of the digeſtive organs; that they have not ſufficient power, and that the ſaliva, the bile, and other digeſtive fluids, have greatly loſt their diſſolvent and aſſimilating qualities; whence the chyle that is carried into the blood is crude and indigeſted, retaining too much of the original ſubſtances from whence it was formed, as perſons in theſe circumſtances have in general the firſt paſſages clogged with a viſcid phlegm, which favour the generation of other diſeaſes: hence it is that pale and turbid Urine may be held as a bad ſign.

Urine that is reddiſh or high-coloured, but without ſediment, is a ſign that the body has been over heated, either by violent exerciſe or from an inward burning heat; for the colour of the Urine is ſuppoſed to depend chiefly on the quantity of oil it contains, and an increaſed velocity in the circulation never fails to increaſe the abſorption of oily matter from the adipoſe cells; ſo that when oil is mixed with the blood in an undue proportion, the Urine will naturally come to partake of it, and put on a higher colour than what it has in people who enjoy perfect health: ſuch urine is therefore, for the moſt part, found in that

diſeaſe called by Hypocrates, the Lipyria, which has been already mentioned in a former part of this work. But when things come to a favourable criſis, and the fluids freed from theſe acrid matters which kept up the irritation, then the Urine becomes ſo loaded, that it can no longer retain the oil and ſalts in diſſolution, but is found to depoſit a conſiderable portion of ſediment.

The experiments which I have from time to time made, ſeems to explain this matter pretty clearly. From theſe it appears, that if the Urine of a perſon in perfect health be divided into 512 parts, 494 of theſe will be found to conſiſt on the analyſis of a watery fluid; 12 of them will be a mixture of ſaline and earthy matter; 5 will be purely ſaline; and only one of them will be oily. But the proportions were found to differ very much in Urine which was made by a young gentleman, who had long laboured under the Lipyria, or internal burning heat, attended with pains in his loins, nocturnal emiſſions, and other very bad ſymptoms of the tabes, until the 30th day, when an equilibrium was reſtored, and the Urine let fall a great load of ſediment: here, of the 512 parts, only 484 were watery, whereas the earthy ſaline was

14,

14, the purely ſaline 11, while the oily, inſtead of 1, was 3, of the whole 512.

From this difference between the Urine of a perſon in health, and that which is made at the time when a diſeaſe is going off, we plainly ſee the advantages to be expected from Urine ſo loaded; that it lets fall a plentiful ſediment, ſince it denotes that thoſe ſaline and oily particles, which, whilſt they remained in the blood, increaſed the diſturbance of the motions of the living ſolids, are now thrown off, and the ſpaſmodic ſtricture in great meaſure removed, whence freedom and equability will be again reſtored to the circulation.

The colour of the ſediment denotes the different condition of the fluids; thus, a yellowiſh ſediment denotes that the flow of bile into the duodenum is by ſome means interrupted.

A blackiſh ſediment ſhew a putreſcent diſpoſition in the general maſs of fluids, and is accounted a very alarming ſign, being only found in thoſe diſeaſes where the texture of the blood is much deſtroyed by a putrefactive acrimony.

Great abundance of pale and viſcid ſediment is a ſign of a relaxed habit, and of much crude and indigeſted humours, not only

only in the firſt paſſages, but alſo in the general maſs of fluids, and may therefore be looked upon as denoting that the diſeaſe, whatever it be, will run out to a conſiderable length.

This kind of Urine is frequently obſerved in diſeaſes of the intermitting kind. The lateritious or brick-coloured ſediment is found not unfrequently in the Urine of patients labouring under a hæctic, ariſing from a dorſal conſumption, and affords but a bad prognoſis.

In caſes where there has been no Lipyria, and, nevertheleſs, Urine with much ſediment is diſcharged, it is one ſign that the biliary ſyſtem is obſtructed.

Urine, with an oily matter floating on it, denotes that the body is in a colliquative * ſtate; for as it is the oil of the adipoſe part of the cellular ſyſtem, that gives the agreeable plumpneſs and fulneſs of fleſh, ſo when this is either preternaturally abſorbed, or when it is retained in the blood, and not ſtrained off and poured into the adipoſe cells, the body muſt neceſſarily fall away.

When much earthy matter ſticks to the ſides of the veſſel containing the Urine, or

* The melting away of the ſolid parts from the burning heat of the fluids.

when

when there is much of this earthy ſediment, it is a bad ſign, and ſhews that all is not right, and that there is a diſpoſition in the habit to breed diſeaſes of a very ſerious nature, and ſhould be early attended to, eſpecially if any grit or gravel be found among the ſettlings of the Urine.

Little cryſtals of a browniſh ſalt, collecting on the ſurface of the Urine, or adhering to the ſides of the glaſs, denote the preſence of a gouty or rheumatic acrimony, and are frequently ſeen in diſeaſes where there is a mixture of rheumatiſm.

Purulent matter in the Urine ſhews the kidneys, bladder, or proſtate gland to be ulcerated.

A great load of viſcid ſlime denotes that the inſide of the bladder is much irritated, by a ſtone, or ſome other offending ſubſtance.

Bloody Urine alſo is ſometimes occaſioned from the preſence of a rugged ſtone, though it may likewiſe ariſe from diſſolution of the blood, from relaxation, or from rupture of the blood-veſſels in the kidnies, in conſequence of a wound, blows, falls, or ſtrains. A remarkable inſtance of this kind happened during the late war in North America. Part of a ſquadron of the 16th regiment of light

light dragoons, commanded by Colonel Harcourt*, now General Harcourt, attacked a body of the enemy, who had fortified themſelves in a large houſe, three ſtories high, in the province of Pennſylvania, March 21, 1778. The Americans kept up a briſk fire out of the windows from the ſecond and third ſtory. In this action one of the dragoons, James Rollinſon, was wounded in the body by a muſket ball; it entered cloſe to his kidney, on the left ſide, and was lodged ſo deep that it was impoſſible for us to extract it.

This brave fellow made bloody Urine for upwards of ſix weeks, and to the aſtoniſhment of us all recovered of his wound, and afterwards enjoyed good health.

It is eaſy to know whether Urine that is extremely red be tinctured with blood or not, either by dipping white linen rags in it, which at once will ſhew the true colour,

* This officer, brother to the Noble Earl of that name, is as remarkable for his care and attention towards the health, &c. of his men, as he is eminent for all thoſe virtues, which adorn civil and military life. During he memorable campaigns in North America, where he ſerved his country, the ſick and wounded ſoldier, the widow and and orphan in him never wanted a friend and comforter. It was his chief pride to viſit the hoſpital of his own reigment, to ſee the brave men who were wounded under his command; and his private purſe was always open to ſupply it with every neceſſary.

or

or by heating it in a glaſs; if it be blood that gives the extraordinary redneſs, it will concrete, and run into grumes when heated; but if it be owing to ſome other cauſe, the Urine, on being heated, will grow rather more limpid, and no grumes will appear.

Theſe are the principal ſigns afforded by the Urine; but we are never to rely on theſe any more than the ſigns by the pulſe, without comparing them with every other circumſtance: thus, for inſtance, if we are called to a patient, who has made a great quantity of pale limpid Urine, we are carefully to examine whether there be any degree of diſturbance in the nerves or vaſcular ſyſtem: if we find the nervous ſyſtem affected, but the circulation little or not at all diſturbed, then we are to infer that the caſe is nervous, and very often accompanied with hypochondriacal ſymptoms. But if we ſhould find much diſturbance in regard of the vaſcular ſyſtem, and that there is a fever actually preſent, then this pale and limpid urine muſt warn us to expect worſe ſymptoms for the reaſons formerly explained.

PART

PART V.

SECT I.

Weakneſs, conſidered as a Species of Morbid Affection.

WEAKNESS, or want of ſtrength, is that ſtate of the muſcles in general, when they become incapable of ſuſtaining the weight of the body with eaſe, and properly performing ſuch actions as are dictated by the will.

There is no complaint ſo general as weakneſs, ſince in almoſt every diſeaſe we may obſerve a deficiency of bodily ſtrength; but in ſome diſeaſes it is a conſtant and eſſential ſymptom; for if ever we obſerve a degree of ſtrength exerted in certain ſpecies of diſorders, either equal or ſuperior to what is natural, and proportional to the different circumſtances

circumſtances of age and conſtitution, we ſhall always find theſe exertions to be but tranſitory, and of ſhort duration.

Some pathologiſts pretend to account for this Weakneſs, which is eſſential to ſome diſeaſes, by ſaying that the ſoul, which is always careful and ſolicitous for the preſervation of the body, foreſeeing that there will be a want of ſtrength to overcome and expel the morbific matter, which gives riſe to the diſeaſe, ſuſpends the diſtribution of nervous fluid to all the inſtruments of voluntary motion, in great meaſure, while it plentifully ſupplies the heart, in order to enable this muſcle to exert unuſual degrees of force; ſo that it may remove thoſe obſtacles to the freedom and equability of circulation, which are raiſed by the ſpaſmodic conſtriction. This, however, is but a chimerical ſort of an hypotheſis, and will by no means ſatisfy thoſe who are attached to the mechanical philoſophy; and yet it muſt be confeſſed, that theſe mechanical reaſoners are much at a loſs how to explain the matter, or to ſay whence it is that animals derive their ſtrength.

There is no doubt, but the ſources of ſtrength are to be ſought for in the nervous ſyſtem, and we preſume that it depends on the

the full, regular, and conſtant ſupply of ſubtle matter, which is diſtributed throughout the muſcular fibres; and this preſumption is founded on the experiments which I have often made, of dividing, tying, or compreſſing a nervous cord in brute animals, which conſtantly deprives the muſcles ſupplied by that nerve of all their powers of ſtrength and motion, and the ſame takes place in the human body.

The actual cauſes, therefore, of Weakneſs are ſaid to be a deficiency, a ſuſpenſion, or a remiſſneſs with reſpect to the diſtribution, or perhaps vibration of the nervous fluid, which ought to be ſupplied to the filaments beſtowed particularly on the muſcles.

The poſſible cauſes of this ſuſpenſion, deficiency, or remiſſneſs, may be various; ſome things appear to have a power of immediately ſpoiling (if we may ſo term it) the nervous fluid, depriving it of its elaſticity, and rendering it leſs capable of vibration. Theſe effects ſeem to follow whenever a ſtimulating acrimony becomes fixed about the mouths of the ſeminal veſſels, or whenever a putrefactive acrimony obtains in the conſtitution, whether it be generated ſpontaneouſly within the body, or be received

ceived from without in the way of infection.

Violent, or long continued exercise, either of mind or body, impair the muscular strength, on account (as it is presumed) of the dissipation of subtle enlivening fluid; profuse discharges of blood, of the human seed, and of other secreted humours, also induce Weakness, as taking off from the source which affords new supplies to the nervous system; and not only so, but as these discharges destroy the equilibrium in the vascular system, which subsists between the parts containing, and the parts contained; for in proportion as the sides of the vessels compress and urge forward the fluids, in like proportion do the repellant particles contained in these fluids resist and distend the canals; hence, when this balance between the contractile power of the vessels and the expensive force of the fluids comes to be destroyed, whether it be produced by sudden and unusual discharges, allowing the vessels to colapse, or by a new and sudden expansion of the fluids, creating an over distension of the canals, proportional degrees of Weakness always ensue.

Weakness constantly takes place in all muscular fibres that have been affected by

ſpaſm; and conſtantly, in thoſe which have been the ſeat of ſevere pain, which may ſerve as another preſumptive proof, that pain ariſes from an extraordinary agitation and vibration of the nervous fluid, whence neceſſarily ſucceed an extraordinary waſte and diſſipation.

Weakneſs muſt alſo follow whenever the cellular ſyſtem comes to be preternaturally clogged and overloaded, either with watery or oily fluids; or as it ſometimes, but rarely happens, with elaſtic air, ſo as to compreſs the nervous filaments; hence the loſs of ſtrength in leucophlegmatic* and corpulent habits, and in the diſeaſe called the Emphyſema.

Weakneſs is a predominant and diſtinguiſhing ſymptom in certain diſeaſes of a melancholy claſs, termed palſies, which I have known to ariſe not unfrequently from acrid matter acting upon ſome of the branches of theſe wonderful cords called nerves; and here it is very often accompanied with loſs of feeling: but loſs of feeling does not always, nor neceſſarily enſue upon loſs of ſtrength; for we often meet with caſes wherein the Weakneſs ſhall be

* An univerſal or partial, white flaby tumor of the body.

extreme,

extreme, and yet the powers of ſenſation ſuffer little or no diminution: this is remarkably ſo in hectic caſes; for here we ſhall often find the general powers of ſenſe ſtrong till within a few hours of death. But whenever we find inſenſibility and Weakneſs are united, and eſpecially if the Weakneſs was extreme from the firſt attack, we may then look on things as in the moſt dangerous ſituation.

In paralytic diſeaſes the diſorder does not affect the general circulation, nor diſturb the motions of the vaſcular ſyſtem; and hence it is, that theſe diſeaſes often laſt for years without deſtroying life; but in the Weakneſs, which is occaſioned by the diſorder of both ſyſtems, unleſs freedom and equability in reſpect of the circulation and diſtribution throughout the whole be reſtored in due time, life cannot poſſibly ſubſiſt under ſuch united interruption and diſturbance.

SECT. II.

Of Spaſm.

THE oppoſite ſymptom to weakneſs is Spaſm, when the muſcular parts of the body are found to exert unuſual and unnatural degrees of ſtrength, and contract themſelves in oppoſition to the power of the will: at ſome times theſe violent and involuntary actions of the muſcles are accompanied with ſevere pain; at other times with total inſenſibility. In ſome caſes Spaſms are joined with febrile ſymptoms, in others they are not attended with any diſorder of the vaſcular ſyſtem; and when this happens to be the caſe, Spaſmodic diſeaſes, like Palſies, may endure for years without putting an end to life.

The immediate cauſe of Spaſm muſt be ſought for in the nervous ſyſtem, and, we may preſume, are the oppoſite to thoſe which produce weakneſs and relaxation: hence we ſay, that Spaſms ariſe from an intenſeneſs of motion, or from an irregular diſtribution of the nervous fluid into different ſets of muſcular faſciculi; too much of this fluid being

ing diſtributed to any particular ſet of muſcles, we may preſume, will cauſe theſe to contract with too much force, and exert unnatural degrees of ſtrength: and as all the muſcles of the body, excepting a very few, are placed in pairs, the one to counteract and balance the other; when, therefore, at any time, the equilibrium happens to be deſtroyed between antagoniſt muſcles, from an irregular and unequal ſupply of the proper enlivening fluids, then immediately violent and involuntary contractions will take place on the one part, while weakneſs and relaxation will ſucceed on the other.

As a certain degree of fulneſs and tenſion in the vaſcular ſyſtem is abſolutely neceſſary for enabling the muſcles to exert their proper powers, ſo when the veſſels are at any time ſuddenly emptied, and allowed to collapſe, not only weakneſs of the muſcles in general will enſue, but very often Spaſms take place, no doubt, from the irregular relaxation of the motory fibres, whence the equilibrium between the antagoniſt muſcles comes to be deſtroyed.

As we can know nothing of the mode of action reſpecting the immediate cauſes of this intenſeneſs of motion, or irregular diſtribution, we are obliged to content ourſelves

by making uſe of the term ſtimulus, by which we mean every thing that, on being applied to the living ſolids, excites extraordinary motion. Theſe ſtimuli occaſion Spaſm, either in the muſcular parts to which they are immediately applied, as for inſtance, the ſplinters of a fractured limb will ſometimes raiſe convulſions in its muſcles, or create the Spaſm in muſcles that are diſtant, and to all appearance unconnected with the nerves where the ſtimulus is applied; as when acrid matter acting upon the nerves of the inteſtines, or the ſeminal veſſels, raiſe convulſions in the muſcles of the limbs and trunk of the body; or, laſtly, ſtimuli may cauſe Spaſms, when applied to the nerves at their origin within the cranium, as when ſharp pieces of a fractured ſkull or any extraneous body is forced in upon the brain.

Beſides things which act mechanically in conſequence of their ſharp angular points, as in the inſtances juſt now mentioned, there are other ſtimulating ſubſtances of various ſorts, which we ſhall not take up the Reader's time to enumerate.

The conſequences of Spaſm will be proportionably diſtreſſing and dangerous, according to its violence, extent, and duration; weakneſs, in different degrees, alway enſues,

proceeding,

proceeding, as we ſuppoſe, from the waſte and diſſipation of the ſubtle fluid.

Spaſm forms the diſtinguiſhing and predominant ſymptom in a certain order of diſeaſes, in ſome of which the muſcles remain in a ſtate of involuntary and violent contraction; in the others the muſcles are agitated with alternate contractions and relaxations, in oppoſition to every effort of the will.

Some of theſe diſeaſes are accompanied with pain, ſome are free from this diſtreſſing addition, and ſome are attended with total inſenſibility.

SECT III.

Of Inſenſibility.

INSENSIBILITY, like every other ſymptom, has its ſeveral degrees, which muſt be more or leſs diſtreſſing and dangerous, according to its duration and violence, and alſo according to the degree of diſorder in the vaſcular ſyſtem, which accompanies the privation of power in the nervous; par-

ticularly in that part of it which is allotted for ſenſation.

The old Phyſiologiſts alledged, that there is one ſet of Nerves which is diſtributed in a particular manner, and ſpent on the muſcular fibres, while the other is beſtowed and appropriated to the ſeveral organs of ſenſe. Though it be impoſſible to obſerve any ſenſible difference between the two ſets of nerves, yet, as the diſtinction enables us to make out the theory of the nervous ſymptoms, it will not be amiſs to retain it. Thus weakneſs and ſpaſm may be held as morbid affections of the motory nerves, their actual cauſes being either remiſſneſs and ſuſpenſion, or intenſeneſs and irregularity, in regard to the diſtribution of the ſubtle fluid throughout this ſet of filaments; while on this hypotheſis, pain and inſenſibility muſt be looked on as diſorders of the Senſitive Nerves; pain, ariſing from an intenſeneſs, or exceſs of vibratory motions, and Inſenſibility from a remiſſneſs or ſuſpenſion of the ſame: with reſpect to the Inſenſibility of particular limbs or organs, we often can trace it to its ſource, and often find it owing to a compreſſion of the nerves which lead to theſe affected parts, hindering the ſupply of enlivening fluid; but when the Inſenſi-

bility

bility is general, we muſt ſuppoſe the fault to lie within the cranium. In fact, it has appeared from diſſections, that collections of water in the ventricles, and between the foldings of the brain, blood extravaſated in the ſame places, depreſſion of the ſcull, and the enlargement or ſtuffing up of the blood veſſels and ſinuſes, have, in different ſubjects, compreſſed the medullary part of the brain, and hindered the free diſtribution, or perhaps ſecretion, of the nervous fluid.

There are many caſes, however, where the loſs of ſenſation cannot be traced to ſuch evident ſources, and where it will be found to depend on ſome diſorder of the nerves beſtowed on the ſtomach, inteſtines, and the organs which contain and convey the ſeed, which are overloaded with different offenſive matters; ſo that here we muſt content ourſelves with recurring to the word ſympathy.

Inſenſibility will ſometimes be general, while the power of the muſcles appears to be not much impaired, particularly in a diſeaſe which, however, is a very uncommon one, called the Catalepſy: here the patients ſeem abſolutely dead with reſpect to the impreſſions of all external objects; while, nevertheleſs the muſcles have power to ſupport

port the weight of the body, and to preſerve the limbs in any particular poſture, that the by-ſtanders chooſe to place them. But in general, the motory nerves are diſordered, at the ſame time that the ſenſitive become incapable of exerting their natural powers; and the muſcles either grow paralytic, or are agitated with convulſive motions.

Thus it is in the apopolexy, the paraplegia, the hemiplegia, and the epilepſy, where inſenſibility is always accompanied with either atonia or ſpaſm; and in violent fevers the loſs of ſtrength (which is one of the firſt ſymptoms) as they draw to a cloſe, and the veſſels of the brain come to be loaded and over-diſtended, is generally accompanied with different degrees of ſenſibility.

SECT. IV.

Exceſs of Senſibility.

WHEN even the moderate and uſual impreſſions of external objects give uneaſineſs, the ſymptom is by ſome writers termed Erethiſm,

Erethiſm, though with more propriety it may be termed hyperæſtheſia, or ſuperſenſation.

We are not to confound this ſpecies of morbid affection with pain, which the mind always feels, ſo as to refer to ſome particular part of the body, ſuppoſed to be diſeaſed or injured, or to ſuffer violence: whereas hyperæſtheſia implies a general uneaſineſs throughout the whole frame.

We ſometimes meet with caſes wherein a particular organ of ſenſe ſhall be ſo affected, that it cannot bear the uſual impreſſions without uncaſineſs; the eye, for inſtance, ſhall be offended with a moderate degree of light, the ſeminal veſſels cannot retain the ſeed its due time, the bladder its urine, and the ear will be affected with moderate degrees of ſound: beſides in ſome conſtitutions, we may obſerve a certain degree of Erethiſm, which in ſome of theſe inſtances ſeems natural, and where the body is remarkably ſuſceptible of the power of every thing that can ſtimulate or irritate, in the ſame manner as we often ſee degrees of inſenſibility peculiar to certain conſtitutions, wherein the powers of ſenſe, both internal and external, ſhall be remarkably dull and languid.

But

But when Erethiſm is ſo violent as to riſe into a ſymptom, it is one of the moſt diſtreſſing that has yet been conſidered *; and, accordingly thoſe diſeaſes wherein it makes a part, unleſs it be but in an inferior degree, are of the moſt violent and fatal kind.

Violent degrees of it are ſometimes met with in maniacal, hyſterical and hypochondriacal caſes, and in nervous complaints.

As to the immediate cauſes, or thoſe changes in the ſtate of the corporeal frame, that give riſe to this increaſe of Senſibility, there can be no abſurdity in ſaying, that it muſt be referred to a general intenſeneſs of motion, or general exceſs of vibration, throughout thoſe nerves deſtined for the purpoſes of ſenſation in the animal œconomy.

* Vid. Part I. Sect. IV.

PART

PART VI.

SECT I.

Caſes of the Tabes Dorſalis, and the Exoneiroſis, or Pollutio Nocturna, which were cured when the Irritability was removed from the Seminal Ducts.

WE have ſeen, in a former part of theſe Obſervations, the diſorders which M. Hoffman has deſcribed after Pollution. The moſt uſual ſymptoms, before the diſtemper has made any great progreſs, are a continual oppreſſion, particularly in the morning, and acute pains in the reins. If the patient wakes in the night, after the Pollution, he feels greatly oppreſſed; and I have ſeen caſes where ſuch a general numbneſs exiſted, that the patient appeared to be ſeized with a ſpecies of palſy for ſome time after,

after, and felt greatly depreſſed for twenty-four hours.

With regard to the connection that ſubſiſts between dreams, and ſuch ideas as the mind has been occupied with in the day time, ſerves to explain why maſturbators are ſo ſubject to nocturnal pollutions, the mind being all the day poſſeſſed with venereal ideas, repreſents to itſelf the ſame objects during the night, and the dream is followed by an evacuation, which is always ready to be made when the organs have acquired a conſiderable degree of irritability.

The body and mind are united by ſuch laws, that even when the ſenſes are fettered by ſleep, the mind is occupied with ideas, which were tranſmitted to it in the day time. Another law of this union is, that without interrupting the confinement of the other ſenſes, or without making them ſenſible to external impreſſions, the ſoul can in ſleep create the neceſſary motions, to execute deſires which are ſuggeſted by the ideas that employ it.

A deſcription of the danger to a perſon who is addicted to the evil ſo often mentioned, is perhaps the moſt powerful motive to guard againſt it.

It is a ſerious portrait and ſufficient to make a retreat. Let us examine ſome of its principal features. In the hiſtories of ſome of the following caſes, we have found the whole machine fallen to decay; all the bodily ſenſes, and all the faculties of the ſoul weakened; the loſs of imagination and memory, and imbecility or impotency, its conſtant attendants. All the functions diſturbed, ſuſpended, and often painful; continued maladies, diſagreeable, capricious, and diſguſting, bringing on the diſorders of old age in the prime of life, and ſometimes in the flower of youth.

CASE I.

Several years ago I was conſulted in the Caſe of a young Gentleman, who had enjoyed a good ſtate of health, till he was about ſeventeen years of age; at this period he gave himſelf up to maſturbation, after ſome time the ejaculation was preceded and followed by a convulſive motion in the extending muſcles of the head, which drew it very much back, whilſt the neck was extremely ſwelled. A year had now elapſed, when he began to feel great weakneſs after every

every act: however this warning did not prevent him from going on with the practice.

His mind was now devoted to it, and the repetition of it became rather more frequent.

At length becoming languid, the ſemen running off in the night as well as in the day, and his muſcles beginning to melt down, his friends were apprehenſive of a conſumption, and by the advice of the late Sir John Elliot, ſent him to the Hotwells, where he remained ſix months without any material alteration for the better. On his return, I was called to his aſſiſtance. I found him labouring under great debility, he had a ſlight cough, and a conſtant pain in the nape of his neck, extending the whole length of the ſpine or backbone. There was alſo an inceſſant oozing of mucus from his urethra; his left teſticle was emaciated one third leſs than the other. His ſemen frequently iſſued from him when voiding his excrements.

He had taken tonic medicines, ſuch as the bark and quaſſa, by the direction of Dr. Elliot, but they ſeemed to have no effect on his malady. The bark ſtrengthened in ſome meaſure his ſtomach, but it increaſed his cough, made him coſtive, and his ſeminal

diſcharge

diſcharge more frequent and copious, it was highly neceſſary to abandon theſe medicines. On examination the mouths of the ſeminal ducts were found in a ſtate of ulceration, and this matter acted as a ſtimulus on the nervous ſyſtem occaſioning great irritability. During the firſt week, on account of the ſpaſms to which he was ſubject, he took a doſe of Hoffman's Anodyne Tincture going to reſt; when theſe were removed, he began to take ſix grains of the powder of grey nicker *, each night at bed time, and a decoction of the ſame according to the preſcription, No. 1. The purulent matter † was carefully extracted twice a day from the mouths of the ſeminal ducts, and his irritability was conſpicuouſly leſſened by a few operations. This courſe was continued for the ſpace of three months; at the end of which he was reſtored to his former health and ſtrength. I afterwards recommended him to take the vegetable gums,

* Vide—A deſcription of this plant in note page 79-80.

† When we meet with caſes where acrid matter ſeems to be the chief cauſe of irritability in the nervous ſyſtem, it ſhould be regularly attended to, otherwiſe our internal remedies will be but of little avail.

The moſt effectual method, is with medicated candles prepared of the extract. ſabinæ, or extract of ſavin adapted to the diameter of the canal. They ſhould be freſh prepared every twenty-four hours, and carefully kept from the atmoſpheric air.

according to the form, No. 2, for a few months.

No. j. ℞ Nucis Nicarean. contus. drachmas tres
coque in aq. fontan. libras quatuor ad libras duas, tum frigid cola et adde,
Tinc. Colombæ. uncias tres.
Capiat. cyath. vinos. ter in die.

IN ENGLISH.

Take of the nuts of the grey nicker, bruiſed, three drachms, boil them in four pints of water to two pints, when cold ſtrain it, and add of the Tincture of Colomba three ounces; mix them. Let a wine glaſs full be taken three times a day.

No. 2. ℞ Gum Ammon.
—— Galban.
—— Sagapen.
—— Myrrhæ,
Sapon. venet. aa drachmam,
Balſ. Peruvian. q. ſ. ft. maſs.
ex ſingulis drach. fiant pilulæ. No. xij.
ſumat duas vel tres ſingulis noctibus hora quietus.

IN ENGLISH.

Take of Gum Ammoniac
—— Galbanum
—— Myrrh
—— Sagapenum

Of Venice ſoap, each a drachm; of Peruvian balſam as much as is ſufficient to make a maſs, form twelve balls from each drachm, and let two or three be taken each night going to reſt.

CASE.

CASE II.

THE following is an Extract of a Letter I received from a Gentleman at Clifton, about 35 years of age.

" I had the misfortune, like many other " young people, when at the age of matu- " rity, to give way to a habit as pernicious " to the body as it is to the mind; age, with " the assistance of reason, has for some time " corrected this shocking inclination, but " the evil is done. To an extraordinary " affection and sensibility of the nervous " system, and to accidents which it occa- " sions, is united a weakness and unea- " siness, a weariness and distress, each of " which strives most to disturb me. I am " exhausted by an almost incessant flux " of semen; my face has nearly a ca- " daverous appearance, it is so pale and sal- " low. Weakness has rendered every kind " of motion difficult to me: my legs are " so feeble that I can scarce stand upright, " and I dare not venture to go out of my " chamber: my digestion is so bad that I " void my nutriment, three or four hours " after having taken it, just as much in its " natural state as if my stomach the instant

" before had received it. My breaſt is op-
" preſſed with phlegm, which greatly af-
" flicts me, and expectoration entirely ex-
" hauſts me. This is a picture of my mi-
" ſeries, which are farther increaſed by the
" ſhocking certainty, by which I know,
" that every ſucceeding day will be more
" diſagreeable than the former. In a word,
" I don't believe that any human creature
" was ever afflicted with ſo many ills as
" myſelf. Without the peculiar aid of
" Providence, I ſhould find it very difficult
" to bear up under ſuch a heavy burthen.
" I requeſt, Sir, your attendance upon me
" as ſoon as poſſible, and if the incloſed
" draft is not a ſufficient fee for coming
" this diſtance, I will immediately make it
" up on your arrival."

When I viſited this gentleman, I found he had been ſent from his reſidence in Lancaſhire, by the Phyſicians of that place, to the Hot Wells, for the recovery of his health. They ſuppoſed his caſe to be a conſumption of the lungs, but, upon examination, it appeared to be of a very different nature.

The diſorder was a tabes dorſalis, and had brought on the moſt diſtreſſing ſymptoms of the hypochondria. He ſeldom paſſed a night free from nocturnal emiſſions. The

nerves

nerves of his ſtomach were materially affected, and he was rendered weak, languid, and feeble. The mouths of the ſeminal veſſels were clogged with acrid matter, which I made no doubt was the cauſe of all the irritability in his nervous ſyſtem. I continued with him, by his deſire, a few days, and afforded him ſome relief for the preſent. As internal remedies could not effect his cure without perſonal attention daily, he propoſed coming to town for the purpoſe of availing himſelf of my aſſiſtance. On the third day after my return, he arrived in London, where he remained near five months, making occaſional excurſions to his home in the country. About this period he was reeſtabliſhed, and has ever ſince enjoyed an uninterrupted ſtate of health.

CASE III.

A Gentleman about 28 years of age came ſome diſtance from the country for my advice. He had long laboured under involuntary emiſſions of the ſemen, both by day and by night: thoſe in the night were often followed by clammy ſweats towards morning, and he felt himſelf ſo languid and feeble after them, as ſcarce to have ſufficient

ſpirits to get up in the morning, and was in a great meaſure rendered incapable of any buſineſs the ſucceeding day.

In this ſtate he had continued for ſome years. He had at this time foul eruptions on his forehead and other parts of his body, which ſhewed ſtrong ſigns of acrimony in his fluids; the powers of virility were gone. On examination, we found the mouths of the ſeminal ducts in a catarrhous ſtate, and his urine full of purulent matter.

I recommended him to take five grains of the extract of grey nicker night and morning, and the draught No. j. three times a day, at medicinal hours. This courſe was continued between three and four months, at which period he found himſelf reſtored to his health and ſtrength of bodily powers.

About ſix months after, in the enſuing ſpring, he felt a ſlight return of his debility, but it ſoon gave way to a ſhort courſe of the former treament.

No. j.

℞: Decoct. nicarean, unciam unam cum ſemiſſe.
Tinc. colombæ ſeſquedrachmam,
Syrup e cort. aurant. drachmam j. ft. hauſt.
Ter in die ſumendum.

IN ENGLISH.

Take of the decoction of grey nicker an ounce and half, tincture of columba a drachm and half, ſyrup of orange peel one drachm, to make a draught.—One to be taken three times a day.

CASE

CASE IV.

A Gentleman about 30 years of age wrote me thus in a fragment of his letter from the country.

" My eyes are at length opened with re-
" ſpect to the cauſe of my long afflicted
" ſtate, and the danger of the abyſs in
" which I was plunging myſelf, as well
" by the withering and waſting away of
" my left teſticle, as the loſs of my powers,
" and univerſal languor over my frame,
" beſides the ſpaſms I have felt in the muſ-
" cles of my body in the act of commit-
" ting the crime, leaves me no reaſon to
" doubt of the cauſe."

The ſituation of this patient prevented him from coming to town for ſome time; I therefore recommended him, for the preſent to take ſome of Hoffman's * Anodyne Tincture every night going to reſt, which

* This medicine may be taken from twenty to one hundred drops, according to circumſtances. The celecrated phyſician from whom it takes its name, kept it a profound ſecret for many years. He has written more copiouſly upon theſe complaints than any other practitioner, either of the ancients or moderns, and his works will ever redound to his honour.

he continued for forty days. He took, alſo, a decoction of the grey nicker and colomba, at medicinal hours: he continued this courſe for upwards of two months, and received conſiderable benefit; but his cure advancing very ſlowly, he determined to come to town, where he remained upwards of three months, and returned home with his health perfectly re-eſtabliſhed.

CASE V.

A Gentleman in the prime of life ſtated his caſe thus:

" In my early youth I contracted a per-
" nicious habit, which deſtroyed my health;
" my head is confuſed, and ſubject to fre-
" quent ſwimmings, which makes me ap-
" prehenſive of the apoplexy, for which
" reaſon I was blooded; but this was diſ-
" covered to be a wrong meaſure. I have
" frequent miſts before my eyes, and dim-
" neſs of ſight, ſometimes for an hour to-
" gether. I have alſo an oppreſſion at my
" breaſt, which occaſions a confined reſpi-
" ration. I have frequent pains at my ſto-
" mach, and by turns my whole body is
" effected, eſpecially after a nocturnal emiſ-

 " ſion

" ſion. My ſleep at night is diſturbed and " uneaſy, and does not recruit my ſpirits. " I have frequent itchings; I am pale; I " have pains in my eyes, which are " weak; I have a bloated appearance; my " ſkin is of a yellow tinge, and my breath " diſagreeable."

We found this Gentleman labouring under the tabes dorſalis. Not to make the account tedious by a minute detail of little circumſtances, he recovered his priſtine health by a long courſe of internal remedies, ſuch as the decoction of the nicker, with the colomba, and Hoffman's tiƈture occaſionally, all the while paying attention to keep the ſeminal duƈts cleared from the acrid matter.

CASE VI.

A Gentleman about 34 ſent me a ſtatement of his ſymptoms in writing, as follows:

" I had the misfortune, when at ſchool, " to contraƈt a pernicious habit, which I " am afraid has deſtroyed my conſtitution; " for within theſe laſt few years I am af- " flicted in a moſt extraordinary manner; my " nerves are extremely weak, have all the

" ſymptoms of palſy, for which I have long " tried electricity, but in vain; my hands " and limbs are devoid of ſtrength, are in- " ceſſantly trembling, and in a perpetual " perſpiration; I have now and then vio- " lent qualms at my ſtomach, and pains in " my ſpinal marrow and loins, which com- " municate to my reins and breaſt; I am " troubled, alſo, with a dry cough; my " eyes ſeem ſunk, and always weak: al- " though my appetite is good, yet I greatly " fall away, and look ill in the face."

I recommended a proper regimen * for this gentleman, and the preſcription in the margin; but the irritation upon his nervous ſyſtem

℞ Pulv. nicarean, unciam,
Gum myrrhæ, pulv. ſemi unciam,
Specs. aromat. drachmas tres,
Conſ. e cort. aurant. uncias duas,
Syrup e cort. aurant. q. S. ut. ft. electarium:
Cujus capiat Q. N. M. ter in die, ſuperbibendo cyathi decoct. nicarean.

IN ENGLISH.

Take of the grey nicker, in powder, one ounce; gum Myrrh, in powder, half an ounce; aromatic ſpecies, three drachms; conſerve of orange peel, two ounces; ſyrup of the ſame ſufficient to make an electuary—of which take the ſize of a nutmeg three times a day, waſhing it down with a wine glaſs of the decoction of the nicker.

* See the Author's account of Regimen, &c. in the ſeventh or laſt part of the work.

ſyſtem was arrived at ſuch a pitch, from the accumulation of acrid matter, that it became neceſſary to attend twice a day, in order to draw it off. He received great relief from all his ſymptoms in the ſpace of three months; but it turned out to be a very obſtinate caſe, for it was upwards of a year before his cure was compleated.

CASE VII.

A Gentleman, about forty, wrote to me thus:

"I cannot walk two hundred paces "without reſting; I am extremely weak "in all parts of my body, but particularly "my ſpine, loins, and ſhoulders: I ſuffer "greatly with pains in my breaſt: I retain "my appetite, but this is a misfortune, as I "no ſooner eat any thing but I have pains "in my ſtomach, with ſour belchings of "wind, and often give up all I have eat. "If I read a page or two my eyes water, "and are very ſore; involuntary ſighs fre-"quently eſcape from me. Filo xylino "flaccidius veretrum, omniſque erectionis "impotens, ſemen quidem, manu ſollicita-"tem, effluere finit, nequaquam vero ejacu-

"lat,

" lat, adeo cœterum imminutum et retrac-
" tum ut oculi de ſexu vix judicare poſſint."
From appearances in the urine of this patient, and other correſpondent ſymptoms, there was conſiderable obſtruction in his liver, as well as the diſturbance from acrid matter on his nervous ſyſtem. We firſt began his cure by emetics, repeated at intervals, and deobſtruent medicines, ſuch as the ſoap, combined with opening bitters.—When theſe remedies had done their duty by opening the obſtruction of the bile, and his ſtomach reſtored to a tranquil ſtate, no time was loſt in attempting to quiet the nervous ſyſtems, which was alſo reſtored to its equilibrium: when the acrid matter was done away from the mouths of the ſeminal ducts, it turned out like the preceding, to be an obſtinate caſe, and took up a length of time to complete the cure.

CASE VIII.

The following is the Extract of a Letter from another Gentleman in the Country, about 45 years of age:

" I feel my heat ſenſibly diminiſh; my ſenſes are greatly blunted; the fire of my imagination

imagination greatly decreaſed; the ſenſation of my exiſtence not near ſo quick; all that appears before me is like a dream; I have more difficulty to conceive, and leſs preſence of mind: in a word, I find myſelf as if periſhing, though I can ſtill ſleep, but it affords me no refreſhment; have not loſt my appetite, and look tolerably well in the face." I wrote an anſwer to inform him, that it was impoſſible to aſcertain the real ſtate of his caſe, and form a judgment upon it without a perſonal interview. In a few days he attended, and appeared to be much troubled in his intellectual faculties from the long diſeaſed ſtate of his corporeal frame.

I found the proſtate gland in a ſchirrous ſtate, and other ſymptoms of the ſeminal functions, ſufficient to convince me that it was a loſt caſe. I told him it was out of my power to render him that aſſiſtance I ſo ardently wiſhed; that by the uſe of ſome internal medicines he would receive partial relief from time to time, but it was impoſſible to cure him. He told me, that during the laſt ſix years he had tried all medical advice he could think of, and had taken all the advertiſed remedies, to uſe his own words,

" as

" as much as would fill a barrel, but to no purpoſe."

In about ſix months after, he died at his home in the country.

CASE IX.

A few years ago, being on a viſit near Colcheſter, Mr. Inman, an eminent Surgeon of that town, deſired me to viſit a young gentleman, who had devoted himſelf with ſuch fury to maſturbation, that at length, inſtead of ſperm, he brought forth nothing but blood, the emiſſion of which was ſoon followed with exceſſive pain, and inflammation of all the organs of generation.

We ordered him emollient baths and cataplaſms, with internal ſedatives, which produced the good effect we expected. But I have ſince learned, that he died about a year after of a nervous fever. And I am not without my fears, that the ſhocks which his conſtitution had ſuffered by this practice greatly contributed to render his fever mortal. By ſuch practices tender conſtitutions ſuffer more than the robuſt: but ſooner or later,

later, however, both ſuffer, though in an unequal degree.

Let him, eſpecially, who has or is likely to have any hereditary diſeaſes, gout, ſtone, conſumption, evil, cough, aſthma, ſpitting of blood, megrims, epilepſy, &c. reſt aſſured, that every act of venery contrary to nature ſtrikes at the vitals of his conſtitution.

CASE X.

A labouring middle-aged man applied to me for aſſiſtance, whoſe ſight had been obſcured for ſeveral years paſt. When he looked ſtedfaſtly at any object, motes ſeemed to dance before his eyes. They had no apparent defect. He had been ſucceſſively in two of the public Hoſpitals, viz. St. Thomas's and St. Bartholomew's. Various remedies being tried, he underwent a mercurial ſalivation in order to be cured of his complaint, ſuppoſed to be the gutta ſerena. But this courſe failing of ſucceſs, the practitioners were tired of the caſe, and he was diſcharged. He informed me, that for a long time he had been afflicted with pains in his ſpine and loins, eſpecially when he ſtooped;

ſtooped; was frequently attacked with a vertigo and a dimneſs of ſight, and that his memory was ſo weak, he ſometimes appeared to be ſtupid. Theſe ſymptoms, together with others which appeared on a farther examination, made me ſuſpect this ſuppoſed gutta ſerena to be a ſpecies of the tabes dorſalis, which had corrupted the enlivening nervous fluid.

He began to take ſix grains of the extract of grey nicker every night going to reſt, and in the courſe of the day three wine glaſſes of the ſtomachic aperient mixture in the margin. This courſe was continued for about four months. At this period he found himſelf ſo far recovered in the tone of his nerves as to be capable of diſtinguiſhing objects without any apparent clouds or motes. I then adviſed him to go into the country, where he had ſome friends, near the ſea ſide, and to bathe in that element. He remained there for ſome time, and was ſoon after enabled to follow his uſual occupation.

Infuſ. nucis nicarean,
—— Gentian comp.
—— ſenæ, aa uncias tres,
Tinc. colomb. unciam unam,
Sumat. cyath. vinos. ter in die.

IN

IN ENGLISH.

Take of the infuſion of grey nicker,
of compound gentian,
of ſena, each three ounces,
of tincture of colomba, an ounce,
Mix them, and take a wine glaſs three times a day.

CASE XI.

A gentleman, about thirty years of age, came upwards of one hundred miles to ſtate to me his caſe in perſon.

He was very much exhauſted, and was rendered incapable of any act of virility. His ſtomach was alſo very weak, and the want of nutrition from a bad digeſtion, and no refreſhment from ſleep, had reduced him to a meagre ſtate.

I found the branches of thoſe nerves which ſpread themſelves on the ſeminal ducts ſtimulated with acrimonious matter, which I ſuppoſed to be the chief cauſe of all his ſufferings. I recommended him to take a draught of the decoction of grey nicker and colomba three times a day, and ten grains of the extract of the former going to reſt. For breakfaſt he took freſh goat's milk, to which was added ſome ſugar and orange flower water. His dinners were generally

 compoſed

compoſed of white meats, ſuch as poultry, veal, fiſh, rabbits, &c. and a glaſs of Burgundy wine and water. At the end of four months he returned to his houſe in the country, in perfect poſſeſſion of his priſtine health and ſtrength.*

CASE XII.

I met with a ſingular caſe of impotency in a gentleman about thirty-nine years of age; from what cauſe it at firſt aroſe is impoſſible to ſay. He had been married ſome years, but had no offspring. He was apparently as healthy a man to look at as I ever ſaw. His erections at the commencement of the act were perfect, but when the ſemen began to be ejected, he was ſeized with a kind of ſpaſm; the penis became flaccid, and the ſemen, obſtructed in its exit, continued to dribble away for a long time

* The ſucceſs of the above caſe, as well as many others that have fallen under my care, appeared to be principally owing to the removal of the ſtimulating matter from the ſeminal ducts, which occaſions not unfrequeutly a kind of palſy in the organs of generation, and indeed ſometimes in other parts of the human body.

time after. He had been in this ſtate for the laſt two years, had been with two ſurgeons of ſome note, who ſuppoſed he had an obſtruction of his urethra, which was by no means his caſe, and at the time he conſulted me was under the care of a very eminent Phyſician, whoſe preſcriptions he had followed near twelve months. The medicines he had taken were of the tonic kind, ſuch as the bark, quaſſia, and ſteel in its different preparations; but they had not any good effect upon the malady which occaſioned all his uneaſineſs. I deſired that his Phyſician might attend along with me the next day, when I applied the medicated candle, prepared of extract of ſavin, as far up the urethra as the ſeminal ducts, by which a conſiderable quantity of foul, corrupted matter was extracted. I gave it as my opinion, that this was the chief cauſe of his complaint, and if not attended to, would ſoon bring on others equally ſerious in their conſequences. I recommended him to take internally a decoction of the grey nicker with tincture of colomba, and ten grains of the extract of the former at bed-time, which was continued for about the ſpace of four months, which, together with the application of the ſavin candle every

day, and ſometimes twice a day, he was entirely freed from the ſpaſmodic affection, and recovered his former ſtrength. In the following ſpring, being alarmed with a ſlight return of his diſorder, he ſent expreſs for me into the country, but in three weeks he was well again, and has never had the leaſt complaint ſince, continues in perfect health, and is now the father of two fine children.

CASE XIII.

Since the publication of the firſt Edition of this Work, a Practitioner in the country called me to ſee a young Gentleman, on whom a Tabes Dorſalis had made ſo great a progreſs, that I found him incurable. He had brought upon himſelf ſpaſms, and the epilepſy, from a long and free uſe of ſecret venery: and it was no longer neceſſary that this unhappy youth ſhould be his own agent in order to ſhed his ſemen, for the ſlighteſt irritation was inſtantly followed by an evacuation of this liquor, which daily increaſed his weakneſs.

The ſpaſms of which he was not before ſenſible, but in conſummating the act, and

which

which ceaſed therewith, were now become habitual, and frequently attacked him without any apparent cauſe, and in ſo violent a manner, that during the whole period of the fit, which laſted ſeveral hours, he felt ſuch violent pains in the hinder part of his neck that made him ſcream out, and all this while it was impoſſible for him to ſwallow either ſolids or fluids.

His voice was become hoarſe, but I did not obſerve that it was more ſo while the fit continued. He had entirely loſt his ſtrength, and was become incapacitated. He languiſhed in this manner for near ſix months, and died.*

CASE

* We know that epileptical paroxyſms, when accompanied with an effuſion of the ſeminal liquor, exhauſt more, and occaſion a greater degree of ſtupefaction, than the others.

Venery has been known to bring on theſe fits, eſpecially in thoſe who are ſubject to them; and to this cauſe the Baron Van Swieten attributes the great oppreſſion which patients ſuffer, when any of the branches of the nerves of the ſeminal veſſels are in any degree ſtimulated by acrimonious matter, 1077, tom 4, p. 429. Monſ. Didier, Profeſſor at Montpelier, tells us, he knew a Merchant there, who never made any ſacrifices to Venus, without having ſoon after a fit of epilepſy, in one of which he died. Vide Queſt. Medic. an Epilepſiæ Mercurus Vitæ. Galen relates a ſimilar obſervation, vide De Locis affectis, lib. 5, c. 6.

CASE XIV.

An elderly Gentleman conſulted me, who had long laboured under great debility of his nervous

Henry Van Heers teſtifies the ſame thing, vide Obſervationis Medicæ Oppido raræ, obſ. 18. I have had alſo occaſion in my practice, more than once, to be convinced of the ſame thing. Van Swieten knew a perſon, who was troubled with the epilepſy, who had a fit upon his wedding night, and died in the arms of his wife. And Hoffman tells us, that he knew a very laſcivious woman, who uſually had a fit after each act of venery. What Profeſſor Boerhaave ſays, in his treatiſe upon Nervous Diſorders, may be here introduced, " that in the heat of venery all the nerves " are more or leſs affected, but when any of the " branches are diſeaſed which have a ſudden commu- " nication with thoſe of the heart, a ſpaſm may take " place and prove mortal." He cites an example of a woman, who every time ſhe performed the act of coition fell into a pretty long ſyncope; and another of a gentleman, who died by a violent ſpaſm after the act, vide De Morb. Nerv. p. 462. In that capital work of Monſ. de Sauvages, with which he has enriched the healing art, he ſtates a very ſingular obſervation of a man, who in the midſt of the act was ſeized with a ſpaſm, whereby his whole body became ſtiff, and he loſt all ſenſation and memory; and this diſorder continued twelve years. " Ita ut illum præ oneris impotentiâ in alteram lecti partem excutere cogeretur uxor, & evacuatio ſpermatis lenta flaccidoque veretro demum ſuccedebat, remittente corporis rigiditate, vide Noſologia Methodica, ſeu Claſſes Morborum."—The ſtiffneſs

nervous ſyſtem, eſpecially in his ſtomach, accompanied with ſour belchings of wind after taking any kind of nutriment, attended with tremors, ſudden fluſhings of heat, temporary ſweats, and a feebleneſs in the joints of his knees and ancles. He was at this time ſo weak, that his ſervants were obliged to lift him out and into his carriage. He had been running, for the laſt four years, from one practitioner to another, without receiving the wiſhed for relief, and had for the laſt eight months been under the care of a perſon who profeſſes to cure all diſorders by electricity, by which he ſaid he was burned alive. I found him alſo at this time affected with an obſtruction of his liver, which we firſt removed, and afterwards began the treatment of his nervous diſorder, which appeared to proceed from ſtimulating acrimonious matter on the nerves;

ſtiffneſs of the body, which Boerhaave ſpeaks of largely in his Inſtitutes, is an uncommon ſymptom. I never obſerved it but once, whilſt this work was in the preſs. The diſorder began by a ſtiffneſs of the neck and the ſpine, which ſucceſſively communicated itſelf to all the members; and I ſaw this unfortunate young man ſome time before his death, when he could bear no other preſſure than lying on his belly in bed, incapable of moving either his hands or feet, and unable to take any aliment than ſuch as was put into his mouth.

for when that was removed every ſymptom vaniſhed, and his ſtomach, which before could only bear fluids and ſmall quantities of ſpoon meats, was now enabled to digeſt ſolids of the moſt nouriſhing kind, and he could now walk three miles without being fatigued. This favourable change in his health took place in the ſpace of ſix months. Doctor Turton, an eminent Phyſician in the Adelphi, attended along with me part of the time in the cure of this caſe.

CASE XV.

A Gentleman, twenty-eight years of age, conſulted me in a ſpecies of that complaint commonly called a diabetes, or a conſtant inclination to urine, which had afflicted him for the laſt three years, and by which he ſaid he was tired of his life.

He was always worſe after dinner, running every ten or fifteen minutes to make water, and during the night the irritation of his bladder deprived him of reſt, from conſtantly getting up to his chamber-pot.

He was debarred from the enjoyment of all ſociety, and public places of amuſement.

He

He had been long drenched with internal medicines, and had very improperly worn bougies, by the advice of thoſe practitioners whoſe care he had been under. On examination there was not the leaſt obſtruction in his urethra, and I found he had never had any venereal, except a ſimple clap, of which he had been cured eight years ago. But on the application of the ſavin candle, there appeared to be a ſharp acrimonious matter to ooze from near the neck of the bladder, which acted as a conſtant ſtimulus upon the nerves which ſurround it. I recommended him to take a pill compoſed of two grains of the extract of hemlock and wolfsbane, three times a day, and two grains of the kermes mineral of the ſhops each night going to reſt, waſhing it down with twenty drops of Hoffman's anodyne tincture made into a draught. In the ſpace of three weeks the day medicine was increaſed to double the quantity, and before the expiration of three months he obtained a complete cure.

CASE XVI.

Since the firſt Edition of this Work was publiſhed, I was employed by Meſſrs. Brandrum,

Brandrum, Templeman and Jaques, of Size-lane, in the city, to attend on Mr. John Bowen, 36 years of age, the Superintendant of their lead manufactory, at his houſe in Dog and Bear Yard, Tooley-ſtreet, Southwark, near which the above extenſive concern is ſituated.

During the laſt three years, this poor man had laboured under moſt excruciating torments, from two fiſtulas in his urinary paſſage between the teſticles and fundament, through which all his urine paſſed, none coming the natural way. Each of theſe holes was large enough to paſs a gooſe quill, and diſcharged a good deal of acrimonious matter.

The above Gentlemen, from their wonted philanthropy, and their eſteem for an induſtrious and worthy man, let no expence or pains be wanting in order to endeavour to get him reſtored to his health. For this purpoſe they had called to his aſſiſtance practitioners of ſome note belonging to the public Hoſpitals, who did every thing in their power; but they got tired out, and gave up the caſe as incurable, leaving the poor patient to his fate. The account he gave me of his ſtate of health was, that for many years before this happened he had laboured under

under great debility of the internal organs of generation, but had never been afflicted with any venereal complaint in his life. He was a married man, and had always lived temperate and ſober. About four years ago an abſceſs formed in the proſtate gland, broke, and diſcharged large quantities of matter, leaving theſe two openings in the urinary tube, which were out of the power of his Surgeons afterwards to heal up. The bladder was much affected with ſpaſm, as well as the canal itſelf, and ſo pent up with purulent matter, that I found it impoſſible to examine the ſtate of the inſide of the urethra with a candle of the ſmalleſt ſize. Almoſt every quarter of an hour he was making efforts to urine, which conſiſted chiefly of purulent mucus and matter. I was not without my fears of a gangrene and mortification taking place, which muſt have ſoon carried him off, and ordered him a drachm of the bark, with ſome of Hoffman's anodyne tincture, every ſix hours. This luckily agreed with him very well, and was continued for a conſiderable time, till the diſeaſed parts put on a more favourable aſpect. He then began to take of the extract of wolfsbane and hemlock of each three grains, made into a

pill,

pill, three times a day, with a draught, containing from thirty to forty drops of Hoffman's tincture at bed-time. In about a month he began to have comfortable reſt, to which he before had long been a ſtranger, and his irritation of the bladder and ſpaſms were conſiderably abated. In the courſe of another fortnight we were enabled to introduce a medicated candle, and extract the purulent matter from the inſide of the urethra. A ſmall elaſtic catheter was now introduced, when he inclined to make water, with a view to convey the urine by its natural channel, and to prevent as much as poſſible its paſſing through the fiſtulous openings; but here we were often diſappointed in our wiſhes for a long time by the frequent return of the ſpaſms. However, in the ſpace of four months every ſpaſmodic ſymptom vaniſhed, and he could now conſtantly introduce it with eaſe; and when it was covered with the ſavin plaiſter, he could wear it for ſome hours together without the leaſt irritation. I ſhall not take up my reader's time with a minute detail of every little circumſtance, but only obſerve, that by the uſe of the above remedies, increaſing and diminiſhing according to the ſymptoms, the patient was ſo fortunate as to experi-

ence

ence a perfect cure in about eight months, and a re-eſtabliſhment of his general health.

Dog and Bear Yard, Tooley-ſtreet,
29th September, 1799.

SIR,

The deplorable ſtate to which I was reduced for the laſt three years, in conſequence of two large fiſtulous openings in my urinary paſſage, through which all my urine paſſed every time I made water, attended with excruciating pains of my bladder, that was ſo frequent and tormenting, as to deprive me of reſt, ſeldom ſleeping more than half an hour at intervals during the night; I had now all the appearance of a conſumption, with a low fever. My worthy employers, during the firſt year of my illneſs, took every ſtep in their power for my relief, by calling to my aſſiſtance ſuch of the profeſſion belonging to the public hoſpitals in whom they had the greateſt confidence; and I am well aſſured they did every thing for me that was within the compaſs of their abilities: but every means made uſe of failing of ſucceſs, they got tired out, my caſe was given up for loſt, and I was left to my fate.

Such was my melancholy ſtate when Mr. Brandrum called you to my aſſiſtance, which was the moſt fortunate day of my life, for through your ſkill, indefatigable and humane attention, under the bleſſing of Divine Providence, am now re-eſtabliſhed in my former health and ſtrength; and ſhall be ever ready to ſhew myſelf to any of the profeſſion, or others, who may be deſirous of information for the benefit of any unfortunate ſufferer, it being the ardent wiſh of my employers, as well as myſelf, to make this cure known to the world.

I ſhall ever remain, Sir,
Your grateful and obedient ſervant,
JOHN BOWEN,
Overſeer of the Lead Manufactory belonging to Meſſrs. Brandrum, Templeman and Jaques, Dog and Bear Yard, Tooley-ſtreet, Southwark.

To St. John Neale, Eſq. Greek-ſtreet, Soho-ſquare.

CASE XVII.

Mr. H. a gentleman about twenty-ſeven years of age, was afflicted for the laſt two years with frequent poroxiſms of acute pain in the urethra, exactly on that point where the mouths of the ſeminal ducts open into the tube. He could not bear the leaſt preſſure from without. It was much increaſed in violence always after the venereal act, and continued for ſeveral hours, which at length obliged him to deſiſt from all connection.

He informed me that he had hitherto been attended by a Mr. Ruſh, who had applied bougies for a long time; but the pain and irritation they occaſioned, and receiving no relief, he was reſolved to give both them and him up altogether. On examination, there was not the leaſt obſtruction or ſtricture whatever in the urinary canal.

The diſeaſe appeared to proceed from a branch of the nerve which ſpreads itſelf on the ſeminal ducts, kept in a conſtant irritation from the acrimonious matter in the adjacent gland. When this was done away, all his unpleaſant ſenſations vaniſhed, which was effected in about two months, with very little internal medicine.

CASE XVIII.

Mr. S. a young gentleman about twenty-ſix years of age, conſulted me for a ſeminal weakneſs, which he had laboured under for a length of time. He had frequent involuntary diſcharges on the ſlighteſt ſenſation, both by day and by night, which had reduced him to a very languid ſtate, and when he applied, he had ſymptoms of a nervous conſumption.

This patient informed me, alſo, that he had been for ſeveral months under the direction and care of the perſon mentioned in the preceding caſe.

On examination, both the mouths of the ſeminal ducts and proſtate gland ſeemed to be in a catarrhous ſtate, and there was great weakneſs in his ſtomach, with diſagreeable ſenſations after meals. I recommended him to take the bulk of a nutmeg of an electary, three times a day, compoſed of the conſerve of orange peel, powder of grey nicker, and colomba root, and to waſh each doſe down with a two-ounce draught of a decoction of the ſecond article, and to take five grains of the extract of the ſame each night going to

reſt. By the aſſiſtance of theſe remedies, &c. and a proper attention paid to a few rules in regimen, he was reſtored to health and ſtrength between three and four months. A number of more hiſtories, ſimilar to thoſe ſtated in this ſection, the author has deſignedly omitted for brevity ſake.

SECT II.

THE following Caſes of Conſumptions have occurred in the courſe of the Author's practice ſince the firſt edition of this work was publiſhed. The principal cauſes which diſpoſed the patients to thoſe too often fatal diſeaſes, appeared in many of them to proceed from a too copious and preternatural diſcharge of the ſeminal liquor: and when they riſe to a certain heighth, they are very difficult to be cured, unleſs the practitioner is called in at the beginning, and even then it ſhould be obſerved that there are caſes in which the beſt remedies are inefficacious.

In ſuch conditions, however, the advice of Profeſſor Hoffman ſhould be carefully attended to, which is, that without continued perſe-

perſeverance in the uſe of remedies, and a proper regimen in ſuch caſes where it is eſſentially neceſſary, no benefit can be derived from them. All remedies in theſe caſes ſhould be founded on the ſame indication as the regimen, of which the Author has given a practical detail in the ſeventh and laſt part of theſe Obſervations.

CASE I.

A young Gentleman, in the twenty-fourth year of his age, about ſix months ago, began to loſe his appetite, and to have a bad digeſtion, his fleſh alſo became flaccid and looſe, his viſage pale, with other uſual ſymptoms of a univerſal conſumption of the habit of his body. By the advice of a practitioner he had taken repeated vomits, and the different preparations of ſteel, but without any advantage. I have ſeldom, in practice, ſeen a patient more waſted, yet he had no fever, but, on the contrary, a coldneſs of the whole body, no cough or difficulty of breathing, nor an appearance of any other diſtemper of the lungs, or any other entrail; no looſeneſs, or any other ſign of colliquation, but his appetite and digeſtion deſtroy-

ed, with now and then fainting fits. I endeavoured to relieve thoſe ſymptoms by the application of an aromatic plaiſter to the region of the ſtomach, and by the uſe of ſtomachic bitters, with the tincture of caſtor occaſionally, and other remedies of that nature, by the uſe of which, in the ſpace of ſix weeks, he was greatly relieved; but it was clear to me, from the firſt time of ſeeing him, that it was a loſt caſe, and all that could be done was to prolong the evil day, as he was conſuming more and more; and in another month he had a fainting fit, and died*.

CASE

* The chief buſineſs of cure in thoſe unfortunate caſes, when it happens that the aid of our art is called in in due time, conſiſts in the convenient uſe of ſtomachic medicines, and ſuch as comfort and ſtrengthen the nervous ſyſtem. Chalybeates given in a mild form have done much ſervice in particular temperaments, and in others the contrary. Cephalick and bitter medicines have alſo done great ſervice. The patient ſhould take, an hour before dinner, thirty drops of the elixir proprietatis, in a draught of wormwood white wine. To the region of the ſtomach let there be applied the magiſterial ſtomach plaiſter, with a few drops of the chemical oil of cinnamon and oil of wormwood; and the ſtomach ſhould be fomented now and then with an aromatic bag, made of the leaves of mint, wormwood, cinnamon, mace, zedoary, galingale, cyprus roots, calamus aromaticus, boiled in claret.

CASE II.

I was called ſome diſtance into the country by the relations of a young man about twenty years of age, who during the laſt two years had fallen gradually into a total want of appetite. He had long been ſubject to a ſpermatic weakneſs, was much given to ſtudy, and uſed to be often afflicted with paſſions of mind on account of the above debility. An univerſal atrophy ſeemed to be faſt advancing, for he was pining away more and more. He had no cough, fever, or ſymptoms of any other diſtemper, either of his lungs or any other entrail; no looſeneſs, nor diabetes, or any other ſign of a colliquation, nor no preternatural evacuation, except the ſemen. As ſoon as I ſaw him, I judged this conſumption to be nervous, and to ariſe from the ſyſtem of nerves being diſtempered. I attempted his cure with the uſe of ſtomachic bitters, and chalybeate medicines, as well natural as artificial, but without much benefit. When I found that theſe medicines did not anſwer our expectation, I adviſed him to change his air, to uſe gentle riding, and a milk diet, together

with the preſcription in the margin; by the uſe of which he recovered his health in a great meaſure, though he is not yet perfectly freed from a conſumptive ſtate, and what will be the event of this method does not as yet plainly appear*.

℞ Gum Galban.
—— Myrrhæ,
—— Sagapen.
—— Ammoniac,
Sapon. venet. aa drachmam,
Balſ. Peruvian. q. ſ. ft. maſs.
In pilulas No. ſexaginta dividend.
Capiat duas vel tres nocte & mane.

IN ENGLISH.

Take of Gum Galbanum,
—— Myrrh,
—— Sagapenum,
—— Ammoniac,
Of Caſtile ſoap, each one drachm; Peruvian balſam, ſufficient to make a maſs, divide it into ſixty pills, of which take two or three night and morning.

CASE

* This conſumption ſeems to have been well known to the ancients, under the name of a conſumption of the back. Galen has given us the hiſtory of a nobleman at Rome, who fell into this malady from a too profuſe evacuation of the ſeminal liquor, which ended his days. Experience and obſervation affirm, that theſe conſumptions often ariſe from profuſe and unnatural ſeminal diſcharges in men, and in women from

CASE III.

A worthy Merchant of the city of London, about thirty years of age, who was ſcorbutical

from that evacuation commonly called the fluor albus, or whites; for from the continual ſubtraction of the nutritious juice, by the ſeminal glands, and ſometimes the flux is ſo extraordinary and continues ſo long, that the maſs of blood is thereby plainly diſpirited, and rendered unfit for nouriſhment, whereupon the blood becomes loaded with heterogeneous and morbid particles, becomes hot, and at length a hectic diſpoſition is by degrees brought upon the ſolid parts, and the habit of the body. The ſymptoms which preſage this terrible diſeaſe, I have for the moſt part obſerved to be the following. An hypochondriacal oppreſſion, great melancholy and thoughtfulneſs, with a decay of ſtrength; ſometimes a loſs of appetite, and others the contrary. In women that have been long afflicted with the whites flowing in a great quantity, there is generally a ſoft and bloated habit of the body, a ſqualid and pale countenance, together with hyſterical fits; a remarkable wearineſs and decay of ſtrength; all which ſymptoms proceed from the ſame cauſe, from the poor diſpirited nature of the blood, and a want of new chyle. Theſe ſymptoms in progreſs of time, that is, when the diſtemper comes to be confirmed, are followed alſo by ſome others, ſuch as thirſt, a hectical diſpoſition, atrophy, and waſting of the fleſh, and the body by degrees is plainly brought to the higheſt degree of conſumption, and often without any cough, or

ſcorbutical and hypochondriacal, was ſubject to a frequent bleeding at the noſe from his twentieth year, ſo that he uſed to ſuſtain a great loſs of blood from the heat of his feveriſh habit, at leaſt once or twice in a month, though it did not obſerve any certain periods, till at length the blood which was let out with a lancet, and that which he bled at his noſe, appeared juſt like the water that fleſh has been waſhed in. When he applied to me, he gave me to underſtand that he could not be freed from the returns of his bleeding, either by phlebotomy, the temporating juices, opiates, and incraſſating medicines, a milk diet, antiſcorbutic and chalybeate remedies, or by any other manner of medicines. He had now

any other remarkable ſign whatever of the lungs being affected.

This diſtemper is eaſily cured, if timely application is made, and the antecedent cauſe of it can be removed; that is, if the diſeaſed ſtate of the ſpermatic organs in men can be cured, and the whites in women: but when it comes to be confirmed it is plainly incurable. And therefore a prudent and honeſt practitioner, who is carefully concerned for his own reputation and the honour of his profeſſion, will never undertake the cure of it, but ought rather to take his leave, after giving his candid prognoſtic; and although he may loſe ſome fees, he will have the ſatisfaction to ſatisfy his own conſcience, and be juſt to his art.

now all the appearance of an atrophy, and a true conſumption of the lungs, together with a very great difficulty of breathing. I recommended him to take ſuch food as is delicious, and affords a good juice, and that might prove moſt grateful to his palate and ſtomach, which, together with the preſcriptions in the margin, reſtored him to his perfect health in the ſpace of ſix months.

℞ Gum Ammoniac.
Sapon. Venet. āā drachmam,
Pulv. Rhæi, ſemidrachmam,
Balſ. Peruvian. q. ſ. ft. maſs,
In Pilul. No. xxiv dividend.
Sumat quatuor ſingulis noctibus hora decubitus.

IN ENGLISH.

Take of Gum Ammoniac,
Caſtile Soap, each a drachm,
Beſt Rhubarb, half a drachm,
Balſam of Peru, ſufficient to make a maſs,
and divide into twenty-four pills, of which
take four each night going to reſt.

℞ Decoct. cinchonæ drach. decem,
Pulv. cinchonæ ſemi-drach.
Syrup. Balſam. drachmam,
Elix. vitriol. gutt. triginta,
ft. hauſt. ter in die ſumendum.

IN ENGLISH.

Take of decoction of Peruvian bark ten drachms,
Powder of the ſame half a drachm,

Balſamic ſyrup a drachm,
Elixir of vitriol thirty drops, to make a draught,
one to be taken three times a day.

Pro potu ordinari, ſumat emulſio. preparat. de ſemin. papav. alb.

IN ENGLISH.

For common drink, take an emulſion prepared from the white poppy ſeed.

CASE IV.

A labouring man about fifty years old, having been tormented for the ſpace of two years with an intolerable pain in his loins; in the beginning of the third year an inflammation ſeized on the muſcles of that part, and an abſceſs formed in conſequence.

When the matter was ſufficiently formed, began to fluctuate, and this amazing tumor had advanced to maturation, a cauſtic was applied to the moſt depending part. When the opening was complete a great quantity, firſt of clear, then purulent matter, with ſome hundreds of little bags filled with a clear fluid, guſhed out with great force. We brought away for the ſpace of three weeks afterwards, every day on removing the dreſſings, great quantities of this matter,

ter, ſtill accompanied with ſmall bags filled with water.

From the firſt opening of the abſceſs his pains were entirely abated, and by the moderate uſe of opium he had convenient reſt. But during the ſpace of ſix months the diſcharge continued copious, and the opening had no tendency to heal. All this time the bark, and every internal medicine of the ingraſſating and temperating kind was uſed, but ſeemed to take little or no effect on his conſtitution. A hectic fever and thirſt now came on, he became very weak, and loſt his appetite.

In this ſtate of forlorn hope, it occurred to me to try a lime water blended in a decoction of ſarſaparilla, prepared according to the form in the margin, for his common drink. In the ſpace of thirty days, by the uſe of this drink, his fever and thirſt went off, his ſtrength increaſed, and his appetite began to return. In about two months from the time he began to take it, the ulcer was perfectly healed, and in three months more he grew fleſhy, recovered his health, and was enabled to follow his uſual way of life without the leaſt ſign of a conſumption. Three years are ſince elapſed, and he enjoys his health very well. Two more ſimilar

caſes

caſes have lately occurred; they were treated in the ſame manner, and with the ſame ſucceſs.

Take of the beſt ſarſaparilla, ſliced, ſix ounces,
Stoned raiſins half a pound,
After they have ſteeped over night in ſix quarts of ſpring water, boil them till the liquor comes to three quarts, then ſtrain it. In this decoction quench one quarter of a pound of quick lime. After it is cleared by ſettling and impregnated with the lime, let it be poured off clear, and kept in bottles for uſe.

CASE V.

Mr. Butler, Surgeon, of Ingateſtone, in Eſſex, deſired me to viſit a Gentleman about forty years of age, who had for ſeveral years laboured under an atrophy, with hypochondriacal oppreſſion, great melancholy and thoughtfulneſs, a decay and want of ſtrength, and bloated habit of the body. Although his appetite was tolerable, yet the moſt delicious food afforded but little nutriment to repleniſh the impoveriſhed ſtate of his blood, and the diſpirited tone of his nerves, on account of the digeſtive power of the ſtomach being deſtroyed.

There was a great hectical heat in his habit, without any cough or difficulty of breathing,

breathing, or any other remarkable affection of his lungs, but the whole ſyſtem of his nerves ſeemed diſtempered.

He had formerly had a venereal complaint, of which he had been apparently cured, and ever ſince he gave me to underſtand he began to decline in his health.

His right teſticle was very much waſted, and the ſpermatic chord ſo relaxed, that it hung down nearly to the middle of his thigh. His urine was generally very high coloured, remarkably hot, and without any kind of ſediment.

I ſuſpected this conſumption, as ſoon as I examined his caſe, to proceed from the abſorption of acrimonious matter from ſome of the internal glands, and accordingly we found the ſeminal gland, through which the ſeed veſſels paſs into the urethra, loaded with a ſharp purulent matter, which kept up a conſtant flame in his whole ſyſtem, with a total debility of the organs of generation.

When this ſtimulus was removed, by the continued uſe of a decoction of the China root and ſarſa internally, he was relieved from all his ſymptoms in about five or ſix months. However, in about eight months after he came to town and applied

to

to me again, ſaying that he had enjoyed a very good ſtate of health ever ſince, till within the laſt month, when he began to feel ſome of his old ſenſations, and had ſome fears of a return of his diſorder.

On examination, it proved that he was right in his apprehenſions, but by recourſe being had to the ſame means, he was ſoon again re-eſtabliſhed. It is now three years ago, and when I ſaw him in the month of March laſt, he continued the enjoyment of health*.

CASE VI.

A Gentleman in the thirty-fifth year of his age, who in the earlier part of his life had been afflicted with a tabes dorſalis, fell about this period of his life into an hæmoptœ,

* All conſumptions proceeding from ulcers ſeated in any of the internal or external glands, if the aid of the healing art be called in before the gland becomes ſchirrous, will ſtand a fair chance of being cured, if the caſe is puſhed on with all ſpeed, by the internal help of proper remedies and the external applications of ſurgery. But when the gland has acquired a ſchirrous ſtate, the patient is in time brought to the ſtate of a maraſmus, which is the laſt and moſt deplorable ſtage, and miſerably ends his days.

moptœ, or a ſpitting of blood. By repeated and gentle bleedings with the lancet, and the uſe of aſtringent electuaries, a milk diet, and a due government in all things, the ſpitting of blood was perfectly ſtopped. But yet he ſtill continued hectical, and was troubled with a dry cough. I therefore recommended him to continue his milk diet, to take ſmall doſes of an opiate electuary every night going to reſt, and for his common drink an emulſion prepared from the ſeeds of the white poppy. Fearful that a conſumption would follow, I adviſed an iſſue to be made in his arm, and to go into the country for the benefit of an open and clear air, and that he ſhould uſe there the temperating vegetable juices. In the ſpace of about three months he was ſurpriſingly recovered, and in two months more, being tired of the country, returned to town, it being the winter ſeaſon. But before the ſucceeding ſpring was far advanced, his ſpitting of blood returned by uncertain periods, at leaſt twice in a month, generally about the full and change of the moon. I adviſed him again to go into the country, and the bark was given pretty freely, but a difficulty of breathing coming on, we were obliged to leave it off. The hectic fever

now

now returned, and in the ſpace of two months more he died. Having obtained leave to open the body, I found the lungs amazingly ſwelled, the lobes full of tubercles, moſtly ulcerated, and their whole maſs had the appearance of ſoft dough, having loſt all their organic texture*.

* Although I have had opportunities of ſeeing many perſons in a conſumptive ſtate, and who have been ſubject to frequent ſpitting of blood on the leaſt occaſion, yet they have lived ſeveral years with due care and management, doing their uſual buſineſs every day, though they have been ſickly, had a cough, and ſome degree of difficulty in breathing, but at laſt it generally proved mortal.

But whatever has been the cauſe of this hæmoptical conſumption, whether acute or chronical, it has, from the common obſervations of the ancient Phyſicians, eſpecially Hippocrates, Galen, and Hoffman, been always reckoned amongſt the number of the moſt fatal and incurable conſumptions—and the more acute it is, the more dangerous.

For as the ſpitting of blood is the firſt occaſion of this conſumption, ſo, likewiſe, it is very apt in the progreſs of the diſtemper to return often, either from the taking of the leaſt cold, or the committing of any error in diet, or from paſſions of the mind, &c. and every new ſpitting of blood puſhes on the conſumption to a fatal end.

CASE

CASE VII.

A Lady thirty-ſix years of age, who had for many years been ſcorbutical, about three months after her lying-in, was ſeized with violent pains a little above her left groin, which gave way to the outward applications of anodyne liniments, and a few ſudorific medicines internally. Upon which it happened about two months after, that ſhe fell and diſſolved into profuſe and morbid ſweats during the night; although her bed-clothes were lightened by degrees, theſe nevertheleſs continued for three weeks or more, with an extraordinary decay of her ſtrength and pining away of her body. By the plentiful uſe of the Peruvian bark her ſweats decreaſed, and ſhe got much better. But although the relaxed cutaneous chimnies were ſtopped by tonic medicines, yet the new chyle, by reaſon of the acrimony that remained in the blood, could not be well aſſimilated and united to the maſs.

The freſh nutritious juice attempted to find out a new channel, and to diſcharge itſelf by ſtool; and ſo in the room of her colliquative ſweats, ſucceeded a looſeneſs which

which proved equally bad, attended with griping pains, and the habit of her body ſeemed to advance every day farther into a conſumption.

But when this door in like manner was barricadoed, by the uſe of opiates and cretaceous juleps, &c. the nutritious juice found out another way by the kidneys, whereupon the poor patient fell into a diabetes, which ſtill promoted her conſumption almoſt to the degree of a maraſmus. But when the diabetes was overcome, by the uſe of mucilaginous emulſions and ſome aſtringents, at length her profuſe and colliquative ſweats returned again. As ſoon as the ſeaſon was favourable, I deſired her to go into the country, for the benefit of a clear and open air, where, by the uſe of her internal remedies, and a milk diet, the ſweats entirely vaniſhed, without any return of her former ſymptoms. But it was not a little extraordinary in this caſe, that during twenty days after (the conſumptive diſpoſition ſtill remaining) ſhe had a moſt copious ſpitting, ſimilar to a ſalivation. In about three months more, with the benefit of the clear air, and continuing her internal medicines, the maſs of blood became ſoftened, and its acrimony corrected, and the col-

liquation of the nutritious juice was by degrees overcome; ſhe now improved every day in her appetite, got fleſhy, and perfectly recovered.

CASE VIII.

A beautiful young Lady, in the eighteenth year of her age, from the ſuppreſſion of her menſes a long time neglected, fell into the green ſickneſs, with all its uſual ſymptoms, a pale and bloated look, head-ache, ſhortneſs of breath, weakneſs, laſſitude, a ſlow fever, &c.

But before I was conſulted, this virgin had advanced from an œdematous to a conſumptive ſtate, and the ſtuffing of her lungs was turned to a troubleſome and dry cough, which gave me occaſion to ſuſpect that a true conſumption of the lungs had been the product of the chloroſis. And I was ſtill more confirmed in this opinion by the pains in her left ſide, with which the poor patient was almoſt continually racked.

Theſe painful ſpaſms in the ſides I have obſerved almoſt always to accompany, or to be the forerunners of, a conſumption of the lungs, whenever this diſtemper happens

to have its origin from the green ſickneſs, or a melancholic and thoughtful mind. A long time before her ſpaſms firſt ſeized her, ſhe was confined to her bed, looking as if ſhe had ſcarcely any blood, and emaciated to the degree of a maraſmus with a hectic fever, languiſhing and without any appetite. And therefore, though the ſpaſms in her ſide did indicate bleeding, yet her extenuated habit, and the little ſtock of blood that remained, a want of ſtrength and a weak pulſe, forbid it. However, we ventured to bleed her very ſparingly, and by the uſe of antiſpaſmodics, antihyſterics, and gentle anodynes, with the diligent uſe of pectoral remedies, theſe painful ſpaſms were taken off. And with the long uſe of chalybeate medicines in the form of an electuary, pills, wine, &c. which I always ordered to be mixed with her balſamic medicines, her whole cure was completed and finiſhed, by the reſtitution of her monthly purgations. For after ſhe was freed from her conſumptive ſtate, and the habit of her body began to be reſtored, and the veſſels to be filled with good blood, it was an eaſy thing to open their obſtructions with thoſe very medicines, which are ſo often tried without ſucceſs, and even with diſadvantage

ſometimes

ſometimes to the patient, when in a conſumptive and emaciated ſtate. So that the whole buſineſs was crowned with ſucceſs by gaining this point. My patient has ever ſince continued freſh and luſty, being married near four years, and mother of three children*.

CASE IX.

A Gentleman about ſixty years old, who had been ſubject to have a good deal of acrimony in the fluids for many years before he conſulted me; was for the laſt three ſummers troubled with a continual heat and burning of his loins and limbs; by which it came to paſs, that he was plainly exhauſted, and brought almoſt into the ſtate of a maraſmus, by profuſe and colliquative ſweats, which attacked him moſtly in bed,

* It is well enough known to all thoſe that have but a little ſkill in phyſic, that the obſtructions of the menſes are moſt commonly the original of the conſumptions in the female ſex. And I have ſeldom ſeen any women that were capable of the monthly purgations, either virgins, married women, or widows, who ever fell into a conſumption, without an obſtruction of theſe monthly diſcharges coming upon it, either in the beginning or at leaſt in the progreſs of the diſtemper.

with reſtleſs nights. But in the winter time he was tolerable, being in ſome meaſure freed, as well from his heat, as from his ſweats: but he never mended in his meagre viſage.

In the ſummer when he firſt applied for aſſiſtance, the burning in his loins and profuſe ſweats were ſo much increaſed, that he could not lie in his bed to ſleep, but uſed to ſit up in an armed chair all night. About two months previous to his coming, he had ſuffered ſeverely from a cauſtic bougie, that had been introduced into his urinary paſſage, with a view to remove a ſuppoſed obſtruction, by a certain Surgeon, which brought on great inflammation on the fine membrane that lines the urinary tube, and communicating to the neck of the bladder, he had nearly loſt his life. The bark was tried in different forms, in hopes to quench the flame of his blood and ſpirits, but his ſtomach could not bear it; each doſe was either very ſoon caſt upwards, or went preſently downwards, although it was combined with opiates. We ſoon tried a ſtrong decoction of the grey nicker with colomba, of which he took a draught three times a day; finding it to agree ſo well with his ſtomach, the quantity was increaſed, and

in

in the ſpace of thirty days the ſweats had entirely vaniſhed, and his nights became comfortable.

The complaint of his urethra, which had been conſidered as an obſtruction, proceeded from the morbid ſtate of the humour in the ſeminal gland, and alſo gave way when the cauſe was removed.

In about four months he perfectly recovered his ſtrength and ſpirits, and the ſwelled legs, to which he had been ſo long ſubject, became reduced to their natural ſize. Three years are now elapſed, and he continues to enjoy the bleſſing of health.

The following is the Extract of a Letter from Anthony Gordon, Eſq. Captain of the Invalids at Alderney, who had long laboured under a nervous diſorder, and before the Author was conſulted it had terminated in a ſpecies of palſy. The principal internal remedies that were adminiſtered in the treatment of his caſe, were a ſtrong decoction of the grey nicker with colomba, and at intervals an infuſion of the quaſſia. The patient was in the fiftieth year of his age.

 " *Alderney*,

" *Alderney, April* 5, 1799.

" DEAR SIR,

" It is with heart-felt pleaſure I take up my pen to give you the pleaſing information, that I continue to enjoy very good health, and a perfect freedom from a return of the paralytic ſymptoms, with which I had been ſo ſeverely afflicted for upwards of two years.

" During the laſt year, my ſpeech became ſo affected that I could not articulate words, and could not ſupport myſelf in an erect poſture without crutches. A general tremor ſeized me whenever I attempted to move or riſe from my ſeat, and the tone of my nerves ſeemed entirely gone. Before I made application for your aſſiſtance, I had tried the waters of Bath and Buxton, and a long courſe of electricity, but all to no purpoſe. It is my deſire that you will make my caſe as public as you pleaſe: and I ſhall always feel happy, either perſonally or by letter, to give every information in my power, if it can prove to be of the leaſt benefit to any other unfortunate ſufferer, who may labour under a ſimilar affliction. And I ſhall avail myſelf of every opportunity to demonſtrate my gratitude for the advantages

advantages derived to me, through your ſkill in the reſtoration of my health.

I am, dear Sir,
Your moſt obliged
and obedient Servant,
ANTH. GORDON,
Captain of Invalids, Alderney."

The Author could add a number more hiſtories of Caſes ſelected from his written repoſitory, ſimilar to thoſe ſtated in the laſt Section, but it would ſwell the work to unneceſſary bounds.

PART VII.

The Practice of the Author.

THE cauſe of ſome diſorders it is very difficult to trace; their indication is therefore not eaſily determined, and the manner of treating them not readily aſcertained, till after conſiderable practice in their different varieties; they may then be eaſily cured when thoſe things are ſettled. But this is not always the caſe with a dorſal conſumption.

The cauſe of this malady muſt be well aſcertained, the firſt ſymptom whereof is a general weakneſs of the nerves; the indication is eaſily determined, nor can the manner of treating it admit of any debate, but frequently the beſt methods have proved unſucceſsful;

unſucceſsful; for this reaſon it cannot be too minutely deſcribed. A general relaxation of the fibres, a weakneſs of the nervous ſyſtem, an exſiccation of the fluids, are the cauſes of the diſorder. It depends upon a weakneſs in all theſe parts. To reſtore the patient his ſtrength is the grand indication.

There are ſubdiviſions drawn from different weakened parts of the human body, but the ſame remedies are not proper for all. It would be uſeleſs to enumerate them here. I have already mentioned ſome in the obſervations. It is no way difficult to adminiſter ſtrengthening medicines, but fatal experience has manifeſted to the greateſt Phyſicians the diſappointment of their effects.

It is very eaſy to diminiſh the natural powers, but there are but few remedies capable of reſtoring them.

This may be eaſily comprehended, when we conſider that aliments and remedies are nothing more than inſtruments, which nature uſes to ſupport herſelf, repair her loſſes, and remove thoſe irregularities which happen in the body. And what is nature? the aggregate powers of the body harmoniouſly diſtributed. It is the vital ſtrength properly communicated to the different parts.

When the powers are exhauſted, nature is then defective, the working architect no longer performs his functions; give him all the materials you pleaſe, he is incapable of uſing them. He may be buried with the edifice under the ſtone, wood and mortar, without his repairing a ſingle inch of the fabric. It is the ſame thing with diſorders incident to the human body. Aliments and medicines will be of little avail, unleſs adminiſtered by a ſkilful hand. I have met with ſtomachs ſo weak, that they made no more alteration upon aliments than a wooden veſſel; ſometimes they make their way, according to the laws of ſpecific gravitation, and when a new doſe irritates by its weight the ſtomach, they are frequently voided. At other times, by making a long ſtay, they corrupt and are diſcharged upwards. Little can be expected from aliments in caſes of this ſort. There are many whoſe powers are only weakened without being totally deſtroyed; theſe patients have quick reſources both in aliments and remedies. The remains of nature draw from the firſt, and the latter properly recommended, to animate this principle of vital action. Such are the foreign ſuccours with which the architect is aſſiſted to purſue his work, and exhauſt as little

little as poſſible of his ſtrength. The weakneſs not unfrequently produced by ſecret venery has ſtarted difficulties in the choice of remedies, which does not ſo often occur in other caſes. Beſides, internal remedies alone will not always perform the cure.

When they are to be exhibited, we ſhould avoid ſuch as are irritating or ſtimulate to laſciviouſneſs. It is a law in animate mechanics (ſo different from inanimate mechanics, and ſo little ſubject to the ſame rules) that when motions are increaſed, the increaſe is more conſiderable in thoſe parts which are the moſt ſuſceptible of it; and thoſe in ſuch caſes are the parts of generation; therefore the effects of irritating remedies are the moſt ſenſibly felt in thoſe parts, and much circumſpection is required with regard to the means that are uſed to prevent the dangerous conſequences of them. I ſhall conſider theſe conſequences, after having taken a ſhort view of the regimen uſually followed; and let us firſt make a diviſion of the ſix non-naturals, viz. air, aliment, ſleep, exerciſe, natural evacuations, and paſſions.

Air has an influence over us as water has upon fiſhes, and ſtill much greater. It is, therefore, very important in ſome caſes to

deſire

deſire one air ſooner than another. The effects of this element may be readily comprehended by thoſe who have once in their life time entered a chamber, which is inhabited without being aired; thoſe who have paſſed over marſhes in times of exceſſive heat; who have inhabited low grounds ſurrounded on all ſides with eminences; thoſe who have quitted a populous city, and retired into the country; who have reſpired the air at the riſing of the ſun, at noon day before or after rain; every ſuch perſon, I may ſay, will eaſily perceive what influence the air has upon our health.

"Temperie cœli corpuſque animuſque juvatur." Ovid.

Weak people have more occaſion for pure air than others; this is a remedy, and perhaps the only one, that operates without the aſſiſtance of nature, or employing her powers; and therefore particular attention ſhould be paid to it. A dry and temperate air is the moſt agreeable, a moiſt or too warm one is pernicious.

I have had patients of this kind who were totally exhauſted by great heat, and whoſe health in ſummer varied according to the heat or coldneſs of the day. A ſharp air is not

not neceſſarily ſo dangerous as the oppoſite; heat relaxes ſtill more the fibres that are already relaxed, and diſſolves the humours that are already too much melted; cold on the contrary rectifies theſe two ills. When the ancient Caribbean Indians were ſeized with a palſy, after thoſe violent convulſive cholics, to which the natives of the torrid zone are ſubject, and when they could not be conveyed to the hot baths in the northern parts of Jamaica, they were, however, ſent to ſome place that was colder than their own country, and this change of air was always favourable to them. It is another eſſential quality of air not to be filled with noctious particles, nor ſhould it, by having remained in populous places, have loſt all that vivifying quality wherein conſiſts all its efficacy, and which may be called the vital ſpirit, equally eſſential to plants as well as animals; ſuch is the air we reſpire in a fine country, that is well ſtrewed with herbs, trees, and ſhrubs.

The air of a city which is inceſſantly inſpired and expired, continually filled with a multitude of vapours and infectious exhalations, unites the two defects, namely, having too little of this vital ſpirit, and having too many noxious particles. That

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of the country poſſeſſes the two oppoſite qualities, which may be termed a virgin air, an air impregnated with every thing the moſt volatile and agreeable, the moſt cordial in plants, as well as animals, with the vapour of the earth, and is of itſelf very ſalubrious. But it would be needleſs to fix on a particular reſidence or air, for every patient does not require it.

With regard to aliments, a good deal will depend on the circumſtances of the patient's caſe; two rules however may be laid down; firſt, to take no aliments but ſuch as compriſe much nouriſhment and ſmall bulk, and which are eaſily digeſted. Sanctorius ſays, "Coitus immoderatus poſtulat cibos "paucos et boni nutrimenti*. We ought to avoid all thoſe that are acrid. It is neceſſary to reſtore to the ſtomach all its powers, and nothing deſtroys more the ſtrength of the animal fibres, than forced extenſion; ſo that if the ſtomach is dilated by the quantity of aliments, it muſt be daily weakened; beſides, if it is too full, weak people are uneaſy, oppreſſed, feeble, and melancholy, whereby all their ills may be increaſed. Theſe two inconveniences may be prevented, by

* Sect. 6. Aph. 22.

by chuſing freſh aliments, and by taking only a little at a time and frequently.

It is neceſſary that they ſhould yield whatever is nutritious in them. The ſtomach is unable to digeſt what is difficultly digeſted. Its extreme languid action, in ſome caſes which I have met with, would be totally deſtroyed by aliments, either too hard or liable to diminiſh its ſtrength. Upon theſe two principles a catalogue might almoſt be formed of thoſe which are proper in ſome of the ſpecies of conſumption, and of ſuch as ſhould be excluded. In the laſt claſs are all thoſe meats which are hard, and difficult to be digeſted, as all kinds of pork, meat of old animals, thoſe hardened by art, either by being ſalted or ſmoked, a preparation which renders them acrid.

All meat that is too fat; all other greaſy meats whatever, which relax the fibres of the ſtomach, diminiſh the action, already too feeble, of the digeſtive moiſture, remain undigeſted, promote obſtructions, and by their ſtay acquire an acrid quality, which by continual irritation occaſions uneaſineſs, pains, want of reſt, anguiſh, and ſometimes fever.

Indeed there is nothing which perſons troubled with indigeſtion ſhould abſtain ſo much

much from as every thing greaſy. Paſte, that has been fermented, eſpecially when hardened with greaſe, is another kind of aliment much too ſtrong for a weak ſtomach. Pot herbs inflate and diſtend, and thereby confine the circulation in the adjacent parts; they are therefore equally obnoxious, as are in general all kinds of cabbages, huſky vegetables, and thoſe which have an acrid taſte and ſmell, which laſt quality renders them pernicious, independent of their windy tendency. Thoſe fruits which are found to be moſt ſalutary in inflammatory fevers and obſtructions, particularly thoſe of the liver, and various other diſorders, are improper in this caſe; they weaken, relax, and enervate the powers of the ſtomach; they increaſe the diſſipation of the blood, already too aqueous in moſt of thoſe caſes, and when badly digeſted, ferment in the ſtomach; and this fermentation unfolds a ſurpriſing quantity of air, which produces enormous diſtentions, that entirely interrupt the courſe of circulation.

Patients labouring under ſome of thoſe diſorders are affected much in the ſame manner as lying-in women. I have ſeen ſuch who have eat fruit after lying-in ſo afflicted, that their belly was ſo much ſtretched as to become

become livid, and their pulſe ſcarce perceptible. Fruit leaves alſo in the firſt paſſages an acrid principle liable to produce many accidents, moſt patients therefore ſhould abſtain from them. Raw garden-ſtuff, vinegar, verjuice, &c. are all attended with the ſame inconveniences, and ſhould alſo be excluded. This is a long catalogue of forbidden aliments, but that of allowed aliments is ſtill longer: I include all young meats, that have had good paſturage, and been well fed, particularly all white meats, ſuch as veal, poultry, &c. Game, without being abſolutely forbidden, is not to be allowed too frequent. Fiſh is in the ſame predicament. But in particular ſtages of the diſorder ſome ſpecies of fiſh will be highly proper. It is neceſſary not only to be careful in the choice of meats, but they ſhould alſo be properly prepared.

I generally adviſe mingling a proper vegetable with an animal diet. The beſt of the former are the tender roots, the herb ſuccory, artichoke ſtalks, the potatoe and aſparagus. There are others which, though very tender, are prejudicial, becauſe they are too cooling, and thereby deaden the ſtrength of the ſtomach. I have had patients who have lived a long time on mealy

grain prepared and dreſſed in milk, with lean meat broth; this makes an aliment that is not to be rejected. It compriſes all that is nutritious of the two claſſes, and the mixture prevents the ill effects of either aliment ſingly; the broth prevents the meal from turning ſour, and the meal prevents the broth from rotting. It is well known, that diſorders are more malignant in particular parts of Europe than others, and I am not without my fears, that it ariſes from eating more meat and leſs vegetables. But what I have ſaid with reſpect to fruit, I wiſh to be underſtood, that when the patient's ſtomach has acquired ſome ſtrength, it may from time to time be uſed in ſmall quantities, when it is thorough ripe. Thoſe that are the moſt watery are the moſt exceptionable. Eggs are a nutriment in ſome degree of an animal kind, and very eſſential; they are great ſtrengtheners, and are eaſily digeſted, provided they are almoſt raw; for as ſoon as the white is hardened, they will not diſſolve, but become heavy, hard to digeſt, and will not ſeparate; they are then proper aliment for thoſe ſtomachs that are too quick in digeſting, but not for thoſe who do not digeſt. It is a very good way to eat them ſometimes as they come from

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the hen, without any dreſſing, or to eat them in the ſhell after dipping them two or three times in boiling water, or dilute them in warm broth without boiling; the milk of ſome animals makes the laſt kind of aliment; this fluid includes many deſirable qualities, without any of the inconveniences that are to be feared. It is the moſt ſimple and the moſt eaſily aſſimilated. It repairs the quickeſt, being entirely prepared by nature. It nouriſhes the gravy of meat, and is not ſo ſuſceptible of putrefaction. It ſupplies the place of both aliment and drink. It promotes all kinds of functions. It prompts to eaſy ſleep. In a word, it is fit to fulfil moſt indications. But it requires in ſome conſtitutions a particular attention to other ſpecies of regimen whilſt taking it. The ſtomach ſhould have no operations to perform at this time, the leaſt ſurcharge, the ſlighteſt indigeſtion, leaves a principle of corruption, which immediately corrupts the milk, and from one of the moſt wholeſome aliments, it may be rendered a kind of poiſon, and become very pernicious.

Before I diſmiſs the ſubject of aliments, I ſhould introduce Horace's advice, who has given us ſtrong proofs of his great ſkill as a Phyſician, as well as the greateſt Poet

of his time. What is a Phyſician but a man of experience? And without that, no emblazoned titles whatever can make him one.

" ——————— nam varia res,
" Ut noceant homini credas, memor illius eſcæ,
" Quæ ſimplex olim ſederit; ad ſimul aſſis
" Miſcueris elixa, ſimul conchylia turdis,
" Dulcia ſe in bilem vertent, ſtomachoque tumultum
" Lenta feret pituita."

With regard to ſleep, we will reduce it to three articles, its length, the time of taking it, and the neceſſary precautions to enjoy it with tranquillity. Seven or eight hours ſleep are ſufficient for adult people. It does no good to ſleep more or continue longer in bed.

If any one indulge beyond this time, it ſhould be thoſe who take violent exerciſe in the day. But in general, thoſe are not the people who addict themſelves to it. On the contrary, the moſt ſedentary people are the fondeſt of their bed. I generally adviſe this term never to be prolonged, unleſs a perſon is come to that pitch of weakneſs, that he has not ſtrength ſufficient to remain long up, and in this caſe he ſhould keep out of bed as long as he could; the reſt is

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the ſweeter and the more refreſhing after fatigue.

It is demonſtrable, that the night air is leſs ſalutary than that of the day, and that weak people are more ſuſceptible of its influence at night than in the morning; we ſhould therefore conſecrate that time to reſt, when we are confined to a ſmall part of the atmoſphere, and which we equally tend to corrupt; that time when the air is the leaſt ſalutary, and when unwholeſome air would be the moſt obnoxious to us; it is uſeful therefore to go to bed early, and riſe ſoon in the morning. This precept is too well known, and trifling here to repeat it, but its importance is infinitely great to valetudinarians. No perſon can ever ſleep ſound, unleſs he is free from all cauſes of irritation. This is too often the caſe in diſorders of the ſeminal veſſels. It is of much conſequence not to have a full ſtomach going to reſt, this diſturbs ſleep, renders it more uneaſy, painful and burthenſome. A depreſſion of ſpirits, weakneſs, diſtaſte, wearineſs, and a kind of incapacity of thinking or application the next day, are ſometimes its inevitable conſequences.

With regard to exerciſe, it is often diſagreeable to weak people, eſpecially if they

have a melancholy turn, and it is very difficult to make them uſe it; nothing, however, conduces ſo much to increaſe all the diſorders that ariſe from weakneſs, as inactivity; the fibres of the ſtomach, of the inteſtines, and the veſſels are relaxed; the humours ſtagnate in all parts, becauſe the ſolids are incapable of impreſſing the neceſſary motion on the fluids; hence ariſe obſtructions, overflowings; concoction, nutrition, and the functions are not performed; the blood remains aqueous, the powers diminiſh, and all the ſymptoms of the diſorder may increaſe. Exerciſe in ſome caſes prevents all theſe ills, by increaſing the ſtrength of the circulation; all the functions are performed as if real ſtrength aſſiſted, and this regularity in the functions ſoon communicates ſtrength itſelf, ſo that the effect of exerciſe is to ſubſtitute ſtrength and to reſtore it. Another advantage that ariſes from it, independent of the increaſe of circulation, is, that it makes us conſtantly enjoy a new air.

A perſon who remains in the ſame place ſoon ſpoils that which ſurrounds him, and it becomes obnoxious to him; a perſon in action continually diverſifies it.

Exerciſe in ſome caſes ſupplies the place of remedies, but all the remedies in the world cannot ſupply the place of exerciſe.

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The exerciſe to be recommended will depend on the nature of the patient's caſe. The exerciſe moſtly recommended is that of foot, and horſeback, but the latter is highly pernicious in diſorders of the ſeminal veſſels, and the former muſt be uſed very gently. When theſe are not affected, ſuch exerciſe is proper, eſpecially if the viſcera of the abdomen and ſtomach are ſound. If that ſhould be the caſe a carriage is to be preferred. The recovery of appetite, ſleep, and gaiety, are the uſual conſequence of exerciſe, but it ſhould be cautiouſly obſerved, to take no great exerciſe immediately after eating, and not to eat whilſt the patient is ſtill warm with exerciſe; this ſhould be taken before a meal, and ſome intermediate time preceding eating.

With regard to evacuations, as theſe are diſturbed with the other functions, their irregularity increaſes the diſorders of the whole body: It is therefore highly neceſſary to attend to them, in order to prevent other ills that may ariſe. Thoſe which require our principal care, are ſtools, perſpiration, and the ſpittle. The beſt method of ſupporting them, or of reſtoring them to their proper ſtate, is to pay proper attention to the regimen. The irregularity of evacuations ſome-

times forms the barometer of the beſt or worſt ſtate of digreſſion.

That which is the moſt important to aſſiſt, is the perſpiration, which is eaſily diſturbed, eſpecially in weak people. It is favoured by rubbing the ſkin with a flannel or fleſh bruſh; when the perſpiration is languid, it is the beſt method to cover the body with flannel. Too many clothes ſhould be avoided, leſt the patient ſhould ſweat, which is always prejudicial to perſpiration. The ſtrainers being forced are more enfeebled, and afterwards perform their functions worſe.

Too little clothing is as much to be avoided, as the cutaneous evacuation might thereby be prevented. The parts which every one, but particularly weak people, ſhould keep warm, are the feet. The preſervation of the whole machine depends a good deal upon this precaution. The feet being frequently cold, tend to bring on very often the moſt obſtinate chronic diſorders.

There are many people who are by this means ſoon afflicted with other complaints, particularly ſuch who are troubled with diſorders in the ſtomach, cholics or obſtructions. Theſe are the moſt liable to ſuch effects. We read in the accounts of the ſacrificing

crificing prieſts of old, who conſtantly walked barefooted on the pavement of the temple, that they were frequently afflicted with violent cholics.

The ſaliva or ſpittle ſometimes ſeparates very plentifully with weak people: The relaxation of the ſaliverous organs prompts them to this copious ſecretion. If the patient ſpits inceſſantly, two evils reſult therefrom, one is, that they drain themſelves by this evacuation; the other is, that this humour, which is ſo neceſſary in the work of digeſtion (without which it is only imperfectly performed) is wanting therein, and becomes thereby painful and bad. The inconvenience ariſing from bad digeſtion renders it uſeleſs to dwell upon thoſe evacuations which conſpire thereto.

I have already given a few hints, in another part of this work, of the dangers reſulting from it.

With regard to the paſſions, it is well known, the ſtrict union there is between the mind and the body, it is evident how much the well-being of the latter depends upon the former. I have painted the ſerious effects of this in the Chapter, giving a general view of the ſymptoms ſometimes attending on a Tabes Dorſalis; it would be therefore ſuperfluous to add any more upon that ſubject.

ſubject. The diſagreeable ſenſations of the mind cannot be too much avoided. It is of the utmoſt importance to procure agreeable ones in all diſorders, but eſpecially thoſe, which like the Tabes Dorſalis ineline of themſelves to affect the nervous ſyſtem in a pecular manner, and by a vicious rotation untones, and unmans the powers of the body.

With regard to the remedies made uſe of in theſe complaints, I ſhall conclude theſe curſory remarks, by obſerving thoſe that ſhould be excluded, and the nature of ſuch that are uſeful. Of the former, all ſuch as are of an irritating quality, hot and volatile. There is another claſs which is very oppoſite, yet equally dangerous, namely, evacuents, ſweats, ſalival diſcharge, and copious diſcharges of urine; all theſe drain the patients.

All remedies that excite them ſhould be excluded. The evacuations of the firſt paſſages are to be conſidered. The indication being to reſtore the powers, in order to judge if they are proper, it is only neceſſary to know if ſuch evacuations fulfil our intent. There are ſome caſes where evacuation aſſiſts us in reſtoring the loſt powers, and there are other caſes where it deſtroys them. People in the ſituation I have ſo often mentioned,

tioned, are very different from thoſe diſorders incident to vigorous perſons, who have rigid fibres and a ſtrong circulation; our patients are generally in the oppoſite predicament.

Thoſe who endeavour to cure theſe complaints by evacution will be much diſappointed; beſides, no internal remedy alone will, in numbers of caſes, complete the cure, and reſtore the patient to his priſtine health, when the ſeminal veſſels are found to be in a morbid ſtate. Such remedies as evacuate the firſt paſſages, fortify while they remain in thoſe parts; where there is a conſiderable collection of matter, that its bulk conſtrains the functions of all the viſcera, or where there is in the firſt inteſtines putrid matter, which uſually occaſions great weakneſs; in ſuch caſes evacuants may be uſed, if there is no contra indication, if there is no other method of diſcharging the firſt paſſages, or if there is reaſon to apprehend they will not be ſpeedily evacuated.

Theſe conditions are ſeldom met with in thoſe labouring under the Tabes Dorſalis, with whom weakneſs and the atonia of the firſt paſſages are contrary indications, which for the moſt part appear againſt purgatives.

Strengthening

Strengthening remedies, that are not aſtringent, may be frequently uſed to promote gentle evacuations, and ſuch nutriment exhibited as are of eaſy digeſtion, as by giving the organs freſh play we ſhall reap a double advantage, viz. that of digeſting what is digeſtive, and evacuating what is ſuperfluous. A ſpeedy evacuation is ſeldom wanting; this is, however, ſometimes the caſe in violent diſorders, the acrimony of the matter, which is increaſed by heat, and the prodigious re-action of the fibres may occaſion violent ſymptoms, which never occur in languid diſorders, in which what are properly called evacuants are, by reaſon of the return of the diſorder, ſeldom or ever ſo requiſite, and are, as I have ſaid before, a contra indication. The atony and its activity are the cauſes of the gathering when it takes place: If it is carried off by a purgative, the effect is diſſipated, but the cauſe which produced it is often greatly increaſed; there is the exiſting complaint beſides that which the remedy produced to be removed, and if this is not ſpeedily done, freſh complaints ariſe faſter than before.

If purgatives are repeated, the evil is once more increaſed, moreover the bowels contract a ſupineneſs which prevents their performing

performing their natural functions, and the patients at length, from a coſtive habit of body, can have no evacuations but what are produced by art. In a word, purgatives to weak people, who have any ſtoppages in the firſt paſſages, only diminiſh the effect by increaſing the cauſe; they are eaſed for a moment by increaſing the diſorder. This method nevertheleſs I have found, by patients who have applied to me for aſſiſtance, is but too much followed. We all wiſh for ſpeedy relief from diſorders, and provided the powers are not too much diminiſhed, they find eaſe for a few days, and the Phyſician may attribute it to the inſufficiency of the remedy, rather than to its operations. It is of great conſequence to phyſic, as well as morality, to know how to ſacrifice the preſent for the future; by neglecting this rule we may ſee numbers of unhappy objects and valetudinarians. Great care therefore ſhould be taken, leſt thoſe ſymptoms, which ſeem to require evacuants, do not riſe from a cauſe which ſhould be treated in a very different manner. Evacaunts ſhould be very ſeldom uſed in this diſorder.

After having given a few hints at what ſhould be avoided, the next is what is to be done. I have deſcribed the qualities of the

remedies

remedies for this purpoſe, they ſhould fortify without irritating.

There are ſome which may fulfil both theſe indications, but the catalogue is not very numerous. Every one knows, that the (quinquina) or the Peruvian bark is the beſt fortifier we have in the liſt of medicines. And it is not a little extraordinary to find, that it ſo often diſappoints our expectations in theſe caſes.

I have had patients, who had taken ſome pounds of it before they applied to me, and who obſerved, that they found themſelves worſe inſtead of better. This medicine has for a century or more been conſidered, independent of its febrifuge virtue, the moſt powerful ſtrengthener and calmer: and the moſt celebrated Phyſicians conſider it as a ſpecific in nervous diſorders.

The internal ſtrengthening remedy I make uſe of in general, is the Grey Nicker, and the Colomba root, added to which occaſionally ſome of the reviving gums of the Eaſt: the former frequently in decoction by itſelf. I have ſeen happy effects from them, after the bark and every other remedy had increaſed the ſymptoms.

They are ſtrengthening, ſedative, and febrifugal; they diminiſh the nervous heat;

they calm the irregular motions, produced by the ſpaſmodic diſpoſition of the nervous ſyſtem; they fortify a weak ſtomach, and diſſipate its attendant pains. They reſtore appetite, they facilitate digeſtion and nutrition, they promote all the functions, and particularly the inſenſible perſpiration, which renders them ſo efficacious in all catarrhous and chronical diſorders.

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